

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-09

WHEREAS, the United States of America, the State of South Carolina, and the Town of Edisto Beach have declared emergencies related to the spread of COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, in order to lessen the intensity and duration of the crisis, reduce the stress on our first responders and healthcare system, and to prevent unnecessary deaths, all citizens must prepare to make sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, as a tourist destination, social distancing requests and shelter in place requests from the South Carolina government officials have been less than successful in the Town of Edisto Beach; and

WHEREAS, short term rentals inflate the population of the Town placing additional strain on Town resources, for example the number of citizens in the Town is approximately 700 and during a typical tourism week, the population is 10,000; and

WHEREAS, the population change increases the risk of virus transmission; and

WHEREAS, certain additional measures need to be taken to continue to protect our citizens and guests from this pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, in Council assembled, that:

1. That a local state of emergency is hereby declared for the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina pursuant to Section 26-33 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach.
2. The state of emergency shall continue for a period of not more than sixty days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Council of the Town of Edisto Beach.
3. **Short-Term Rentals and Other Overnight Accommodations:** No new check ins are permitted beginning 10 a.m. Thursday, March 26, 2020 through April 30, 2020. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations. Long-term rentals of 30 days or more are still permitted by showing a valid lease agreement.
4. **Physical businesses** (except essential businesses, listed below) may not allow patrons indoors or to shop on-premises and must follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. However, business employees may come to work with a pass as determined appropriate by the Police Chief from their employer confirming their work status, and businesses may continue to serve clients virtually, by delivery, or at a service window. The grocery store and gas station are deemed essential by the CDC and may continue to allow customers inside. Restaurants can continue with take out and delivery services. Private Boat charters are not allowed as they cannot practice social distancing.

5. **Construction and service businesses** may continue, but the crew is limited to the job site premise only, with the exception that the crew may patronize food establishments and gas stations in the Town. Employees must have a copy of the permit (if applicable) and the 2020 business license vehicle sticker or copy of current business license. Please expect substantial delays in processing new building permit and business license applications.

6. **All Other Checkpoint Regulations:**

- Checkpoint will be operational 24 hours a day until further notice.
- Residents and property owners: Please bring one form of identification showing residency or ownership (driver's license, utility bill, deed, tax bill, lease, etc.) If the property is owned by a LLC or other group, documentation must be provided showing owners.
- Edisto Island residents: will continue to be allowed to access essential businesses (BiLo and Gas station) and restaurants as long as they have proof of Edisto island residency.
- Relatives and family members: Immediate family members (defined as spouse, children, parents, grandparents) are allowed as long as accompanied by an owner.
- Guest passes are not permitted.
- Delivery persons who can demonstrate business on the beach at the checkpoint (including pharmacy, FedEx, UPS, Amazon, building supply, and food delivery) by showing delivery order, address, and goods at the checkpoint.
- Caretakers: Professional caretakers are limited to caretakers with professional medical service credentials.
- Essential Business Employees Essential business employees will still be allowed past the checkpoint.
- Media personnel with media credentials presented.
- Town Parks, playgrounds and facilities will be closed.

Enacted this 25th day of March, 2020, by Town Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Attest:



Iris Hill, Town Administrator



Jane Darby, Mayor