

March 31, 2020

Greetings from the Town of Lake Lure,

The Lake Lure Town Council and Staff have been working to strengthen safety measures to protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. Rutherford County issued a Declaration of State of Emergency on 3/16/20 and the Town of Lake Lure issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency on 3/17/20. Rutherford County and the incorporated municipalities then issued a Joint Supplemental Proclamation of a State of Emergency on 3/27/20 and also issued a Rutherford County Short Term Rental Suspension Request on 3/27/20.

Rutherford County's Short Term Rental Suspension Request is voluntary, but recognizes the best available medical evidence confirms that human travel promotes the spread of this disease and the presence of visitors in Rutherford County has the potential to exacerbate the strain on the limited healthcare resources and facilities available within Rutherford County. This request was made to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a manner and at a pace that overwhelms the ability of Rutherford County and its healthcare partners to respond effectively in the coming days. This Suspension Request was made to all types of transient lodging within the County.

The average age of year-round residents in Lake Lure is approximately 60. Older persons have been identified as particularly susceptible to life-threatening complications associated with COVID-19. Residential Vacation Rentals pose an increased risk and danger for the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the Town of Lake Lure due to the age of our population and the number of such Rentals within the Town's corporate limits, approximately 340 units. Additionally, the Town's Residential Vacation Rentals are embedded throughout the Town's Residential neighborhoods.

To protect our citizens, the Town of Lake Lure is suspending Residential Vacation Rentals within Town limits.

- All Residential Vacation Rental properties (as defined in §92.005 Zoning Regulations of the Town of Lake Lure) in the incorporated area of Lake Lure, shall cease accepting new reservations for any period of time from 12:01 a.m. 4/1/20 through 5/15/20 (such time limit is subject to further modification).
- Violations of this Declaration may result in suspension of Residential Vacation Rental permits, along with additional fines set forth in the Town Code and herein.
- Existing reservations made for a period beginning 4/1/20 through 5/15/20 will be rescheduled or canceled.
- Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations, but such reservations shall not be extended.
- Those units consistently occupied since 3/1/20 are exempt, but rental occupancy may not be increased by others, including friends or family members.

The Town will continue to monitor the data released by local, State and National authorities regarding COVID-19 and may extend the ban outlined herein to other types of transient lodging facilities within the Town as appropriate. Additionally, publicly-owned and privately-owned places

where large numbers of persons tend to congregate consistently throughout the day pose a particular risk for the spread of COVID-19, such as parks and similar recreational sites.

To protect our citizens, all amusements designed to attract and accommodate visitors, are hereby ordered to close effective Tuesday, 3/31/20, including but not limited to movies and live performances, miniature golf (not golf courses), amusement parks and arcades, and similar attractions typically involving more than 10 persons at any given time.

- The following Parks and public areas shall close effective 3/31/20 :
 - Public Boat Ramps - Close
 - Morse Park - Close
 - Flowering Bridge – Close
 - Pool Creek Park – Close
- Buffalo Creek Park/Weed Patch Mountain and Dittmer Watts Park (all walking/hiking trails) shall remain open; however, appropriate social distancing of persons (at least six feet) shall be practiced and enforced.
- Golf Courses may remain open; however, no more than one person shall be allowed per cart. Walking on the golf course shall be allowed with appropriate social distancing being practiced and enforced.

The Town recognizes the importance of making some outdoor areas available but will continue to monitor developing conditions and whether these opportunities are being used in an acceptable and safe manner by the public and may issue further Orders in appropriate circumstances. **Any person who violates any provision of this declaration shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor in accordance with G.S. 14-288.20A.**

Please continue to visit the Town's Website where daily updates are posted at www.townoflakelure.com. See the link for "Town News" on the Homepage for information related to Rutherford County, the Town of Lake Lure, and CDC Guidelines for prevention.

- If you need emergency assistance, please call 9-1-1.
- If you need COVID-19 Health Screening call Rutherford County, NC Medical Screening Hotline at (828) 289-1185.
- If you need resources or information in COVID-19, please call 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162.
- Be sure you are registered for **Everbridge**, the Town's Mass Emergency Notification System. To register for Everbridge you may visit the Town Website at www.townoflakelure.com. and look for the link for Everbridge on the left hand side of the page.
- If you have further questions or need additional support during this Emergency Period, please contact Laura Krejci our Needs Assessment Officer at 828-625-9983, ext. 103.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation during this challenging time. Our continued unity as a community is critical. Please continue to stay safe, stay informed and **Stay At Home** to assist in controlling the spread of COVID-19. Please take this opportunity to support each other and to staying in touch with family, friends, and neighbors.



Carol Pritchett
Mayor, Town of Lake Lure