

## **EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING LODGING HOUSES**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Mayor Jon Mitchell declared a citywide state of emergency to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a direct threat to the health and safety of individuals;

WHEREAS, there is a clear danger that COVID-19 could be spread in lodging houses due to the transient nature and the close physical proximity of persons therein;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has recommended that persons who may be or are infected with COVID-19 self-quarantine by staying in a specific room away from other people and by using a separate bathroom;

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Mayor Jon Mitchell and the New Bedford Board of Health issued an "Emergency Order Concerning Lodging Houses" ("the April 1, 2020 Order");

WHEREAS, Mayor Jon Mitchell and the New Bedford Board of Health wish to replace the April 1, 2020 Order with this Order;

WHEREAS, any person seeking lodging in a lodging house is referred to herein as a "potential guest";

WHEREAS, any person actually residing in a lodging house is referred to herein as a "guest";

NOW THEREFORE, Mayor Jon Mitchell and the New Bedford Board of Health, in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in New Bedford's lodging houses, hereby ORDER the following, effective at 11:59 P.M., May \_\_, 2020:

(1) Lodging houses shall screen all potential guests for COVID-19 by asking them whether they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or currently have any COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, new onset of cough, or new difficulty breathing) and by taking their temperatures. Any potential guest who has a fever or any other COVID-19 symptom shall only be given lodging if: (a) it is possible to give the potential guest a private bedroom and private bathroom or; (b) if the potential guest cannot be provided a private bedroom and private bathroom, the potential guest provides a note from a physician stating that the potential guest has been asymptomatic for COVID-19 for a minimum of 7 days and has tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous 7 days. Lodging houses that are unable to provide lodging pursuant to clauses (a) or (b) to a potential guest who has a fever or any other COVID-19 symptom shall refer the potential guest to the New Bedford Health Department for assistance.

(2) Lodging houses shall take the temperature of all staff members when they come to work, and any staff member with a fever shall be sent home.

(3) Lodging houses shall promptly inform the Health Department of any guests with newly pronounced respiratory symptoms or suspected COVID-19.

(4) Lodging houses shall keep all bathrooms well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing.

(5) Lodging houses shall frequently clean all public spaces and disinfect high touch items such as doorknobs, room keys, laundry machines, and pens. Lodging staff shall wear gloves at all times when cleaning.

(6) Communal spaces shall be closed.

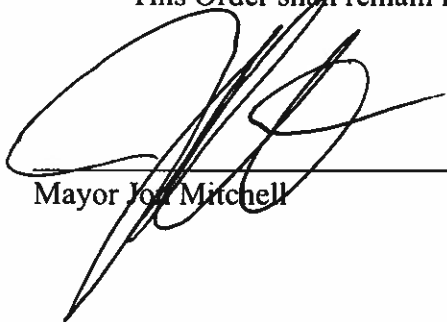

(7) Lodging houses shall limit use of laundry facilities to one guest at a time. Lodging houses shall prominently display signs in laundry areas instructing guests not to shake their clothes and to use the highest water temperatures possible and to fully dry all of their laundry.

(8) Inspectors from the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management shall be deputized to enforce this order.

This Order rescinds and revokes the April 1, 2020 Order.

Violation of any provision of this Order may result in a fine of \$500 per day for each violation.

This Order shall remain in effect through the period of the Mayor's Emergency Order.

  
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Mayor Jon Mitchell  
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Dr. Patricia Andrade  
Chair, Board of Health