

## **SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY ORDER**

WHEREAS, effective Friday, March 20, 2020 the Town of Nantucket issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending all regular activity at construction sites on Nantucket, including but not limited to all work authorized by building permits and street opening permits (Emergency Order No. 1).

WHEREAS, the Town of Nantucket issued an Emergency Stay-at-Home Order on March 22, 2020 seeking cooperation of all residents to limit possible transmission of COVID-19 (Emergency Order No. 3).

WHEREAS, the situation involving the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve, with additional guidance being issued daily by the Federal and State governments.

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, Governor Baker issued an order identifying certain essential and non-essential businesses and directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay-at-home advisory.

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020 Governor Baker, through his Chief Legal Counsel, issued guidance interpreting the March 23, 2020 order with respect to the scope of authority of local governments to regulate matters in the order, particularly with respect to construction.

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the Town of Nantucket and all of the towns on Martha's Vineyard requested that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor clarify such order based upon circumstances including but not limited to the Islands' unique circumstances.

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, officials from Nantucket participated in a conference call with the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, among others, and indicated their concern about continued construction on the island for purposes including but not limited to travel to and from the island, limited public safety personnel, limited hospital capacity, and more.

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2020, officials from the Town of Nantucket participated in a telephone conference with the Governor's Legal Counsel, Legislative Director and Chief Secretary, who affirmed that local governments retain the authority to enact regulations that are more stringent than the Governor's orders, to regulate activities within their jurisdictions based on their individual circumstances.

WHEREAS, we wish to re-affirm the unique circumstances facing the Town and island of Nantucket that require a strict limitation on all non-essential business, including construction and commercial landscaping projects, and to re-affirm that all non-emergency construction work and all commercial landscaping work is prohibited until the expiration of the applicable orders or they are sooner rescinded.

WHEREAS, Nantucket is uniquely situated insofar as it is only accessible by boat or airplane. In this regard, the primary method for travel to and from the island by many construction and landscape workers will be by boat. It is customary and expected that workers will travel together from the mainland and once they arrive, they will travel together to and from work sites. Due to the group nature of this type of travel, it is unlikely that sufficient physical distancing can be maintained.

WHEREAS, Nantucket has only one hospital, Nantucket Cottage Hospital. While the doctors, nurses and staff have done and continue to perform outstanding work in the face of this crisis, they have limited resources and cannot handle an influx of illness spread by failure to comply with social distancing protocols. Of particular concern are the facts that the Hospital has only fourteen licensed beds, three ventilators, and it does not have an intensive care unit. Thus, anyone needing such care will be required to be airlifted to a hospital on the mainland, further diminishing the capabilities on hospital staff.

WHEREAS, the Nantucket Cottage Hospital President Gary Shaw has said time and again that given the small size and the geographic isolation of the Islands and limited access to PPE and other emergency equipment, failure to limit exposure will necessarily result in the overburdening of each hospital's resources and lead to a further health crisis emergency. Hospital leaders have further indicated that their ethics teams are now analyzing how the hospitals will make decisions as to who should receive treatment and who should not, or cannot. This is our reality today.

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, Nantucket does not have sufficient resources to provide emergency police, fire and ambulance service above what it is providing to Island residents during this unusual period. Indeed, as an island community of just one municipality, Nantucket has no opportunities to call on the mutual aid of its neighbors to assist should its resources become overwhelmed.

WHEREAS, during this state of emergency, Nantucket does not have sufficient staffing to ensure that job sites are safe, insofar as it cannot commit emergency first-responders to performing construction detail work, it cannot monitor job sites to ensure that physical distancing requirements are met, and it cannot provide adequate support in the event of an emergency.

WHEREAS, it is essential that visitors to the Island be limited to only those who absolutely have to be here so that the Town's limited resources do not become overwhelmed and insufficient to protect the health and safety of its residents, first responders and essential workers.

NOW THEREFORE, based on the conditions cited above, and other well-known adverse effects of the COVID-19 crisis, the Nantucket Board of Health, upon the recommendation of Emergency Management and Public Health Officials, the Director of the Nantucket Cottage

Hospital, and the Select Board, and the need to protect the health of the inhabitants of the Town of Nantucket, hereby reaffirms and supplements Emergency Orders Nos. 1 and 2, as follows:

There hereby continues in effect an Emergency Order imposing a temporary moratorium on all non-essential construction work until such time as the State of Emergency declared due to the outbreak of COVID-19 is lifted, as well as an Emergency Stay-at-Home Order that limits, among other things, landscaping.

As of the date of this Supplemental Emergency Order, all non-essential construction and landscaping shall continue to be prohibited in the Town of Nantucket and must immediately cease until further order, except as provided herein. This Order applies to all work sites, including but not limited to all work authorized by building permits and street opening permits previously issued. This Order also prohibits work by commercial landscaping and other similar businesses performing work that is not essential as defined below.

This Order shall apply as follows:

Existing and newly permitted projects which comprise essential construction may be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with this Order and any further orders of the Commonwealth, the Board of Health and/or the Building Commissioner, to the extent that such orders are more restrictive than what is set forth herein.

For purposes of Emergency Order Nos. 1 and 3, and this Supplemental Emergency Order, essential construction includes only the following work:

- Work to build or repair roads, bridges, transit facilities, utilities, hospitals or health care facilities, or homeless shelters.
- Emergency Utility, road or building work, such as to repair water or sewer leaks and sinkholes.
- New Utility connections to occupied buildings where prior connections are no longer functioning.
- Site-specific building or utility work ordered by a Governmental entity to protect public health and safety.
- Work at health care facilities, shelters, including temporary shelters and other facilities that support vulnerable populations or that provide emergency services.
- Work which ensures the reliability of the transportation network.
- Other work necessary to render occupied residential buildings fully habitable.

Under no circumstance will the term emergency work include construction on unoccupied residential or commercial structures unless it is in a class of work described above.

Consistent with action already taken, all active construction sites shall be secured to prevent unauthorized entry, damage to equipment and/or work-in-progress and to protect public safety. Only skeleton crews will be permitted to enter construction sites for the remainder of the moratorium and period of this Supplemental Emergency Order, and such entry shall be limited to what is necessary to ensure safety and security.

At every site where essential construction activity continues under one of the categories authorized above, operators shall ensure that all activity is undertaken in a manner consistent with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures for all Construction Sites and Workers at all Public Work as issued by the Governor on March 25, 2020 and attached to this Order (the "Guidelines"). The Operator shall ensure that the work site and activities undertaken therein are and shall remain in compliance with the Guidelines. All permissive language (e.g. phrases with "please" or "should") are hereby deemed mandatory obligations.

At every site where construction activity continues, one or more site-specific COVID-19 liaison officer(s) shall be identified who shall maintain a daily compliance log and shall certify that the contractor, subcontractors and all workers are in full compliance with this Order and the Guidelines.

Board of Health

Stephen J. Visco, *Chair*

Malcolm W. MacNab, MD, PhD, *Vice Chair*

James A. Cooper, *Member*

Rita Higgins, *Member*

Helene M. Weld, RN, *Member*

In concurrence with action taken by the Select Board:

Dawn Hill-Holdgate, *Chair*

Rita Higgins, *Vice-Chair*

Matt Fee, *Member*

Jason Bridges, *Member*

Kristie Ferrantella, *Member*

As well as Town Staff and representative of Nantucket Cottage Hospital:

C. Elizabeth Gibson, *Town Manager*

William Pittman, Director, Office of Emergency Management

Roberto Santamaria, Director, Department of Public Health

Paul Murphy, Nantucket Building Commissioner

Gary A. Shaw, President, Nantucket Cottage Hospital