

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-08

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and other potential methods, and presents symptoms similar to those of influenza;

WHEREAS, in December of 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 117 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Broward County and 18 other counties in the State of Florida;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is predicting that it is likely that widespread transmission of COVID-19 will also occur in the United States;

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Edisto Beach;

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Town of Edisto Beach is working with other government agencies in an effort to prevent the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, Governor Henry McMaster issued an executive order that closed all dine-in services at restaurants and bars beginning on Wednesday, March 18, and limiting all business to to-go/take out services only;

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, or safety; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Town of Edisto Beach deems it proper and necessary to adopt this emergency ordinance in order to, among other things:

(a) allow Town Council and any appointed Board or Commission to meet by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with.

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

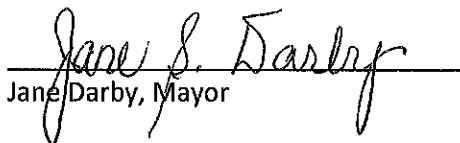
1. The Town of Edisto temporarily suspends the normal operating procedures of Town Council meetings and hereby allows for the Mayor and Councilmembers to remotely participate in voting and operational procedures by telephone or other means of electronic communication provided that the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are complied with.
2. All deadlines imposed by Town Ordinance, applicable to the municipality or applicant, shall be suspended until June 1, 2020 and waive penalties and fines.
3. The Town Administrator is authorized to develop and enact a plan in order to ensure continuity in the delivery of government services in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. The Town Administrator is authorized to cancel and revoke any special events permits issued prior to the date of this ordinance for events taking place until April 30, 2020.
5. All public gatherings of any type, whether organized or otherwise, of greater than 10 persons are prohibited.
6. Suspend in accordance with the Town' Code any existing procurement-related ordinances "if strict compliance with the provisions thereof would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency".
7. Access to the Town of Edisto Beach will be restricted for the next fourteen (14) days beginning March 21, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. to the following: (1) residents of the island with a current proof of residency; (2) service workers; (3) holders of a current short term rental contract readily visible on or near the vehicle; (4) relatives and/or friends of residents only in presence of a current resident in a vehicle; (6) delivery personnel, including but not limited to pharmacy, Fedex, UPS, Amazon, USPS; (7) any delivery of essential medical services, including caregivers; and (8) employees of local business, including but not limited to, grocery stores, restaurants, contractors, Short Term Rentals and property managers. Access will be restricted subject to the above from 7am to 7pm during this period.

8. As is necessary to slow the outbreak of COVID-19, Town Administrator is authorized to implement additional restrictive requirements, upon notice to Council.
9. Any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable under Chapter 1 Section 6, General Penalties-Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach.

*Enacted this 20th day of March, 2020, by Town Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina.*

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This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

  
Jane Darby, Mayor