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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2020

### **COVID-19 Response Local State of Emergency Avery County Government amends Suspension of Short-term Rentals and Suspends 14 day Self-Quarantine**

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to pose a looming threat to the public health and safety of the people of Avery County. Avery County Government continues to be proactive in taking the necessary steps to slow the spread through all appropriate means.

There is a reason why we have zero positive cases today in Avery County. Avery County citizens have listened to the Governor and Health Officials and followed all Guidelines.

The Avery County Health Department continues to stress the importance of the 3 W's:

1. Washing your hands for 20 seconds multiple times a day and using hand sanitizer.
2. Waiting by practicing social distancing and maintaining 6 feet minimum from others when you have to be out in public or at work.
3. Wearing a face covering or mask while in public.

These practical steps are the only proven defense in stopping the spread of the virus.

The Governor is moving to Phase I of the stay at home order beginning May 8th. This will allow people to leave home for commercial activity and more businesses will open.

The County's 14-day quarantine on all individuals arriving for overnight stays in the County is suspended. It continues to be highly recommended that all citizens continue to practice social distancing and wear a face covering while in public

Short-term rentals for non-essential workers is partially reopened with 50% of units allowed to be rented or leased. All campgrounds and RV Parks may be reopened with 100% of units allowed to be rented or leased. We all know how important tourism is to our beautiful county and we realize that this places a burden on the hotels and short-term rental sector of our economy. This order is made so we can closely monitor any strain on our resources and the public's health.

These requirements are in effect until further notice. Avery County Government will return to being Avery County as soon as possible, but the health and welfare of all our citizens continues to be most important during this difficult time.

Together we will beat COVID-19. Together we are Avery County.

Visit our website at [Averycountync.gov](http://Averycountync.gov) or call the county's COVID-19 line at 828-373-0091 for information or concerns.