



March 24, 2020

Re: City of Sturgis – COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Dear Owner/Operator:

I have heard from many businesses over the past week asking if it is necessary for you to temporarily close in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, I have not issued a directive nor has the Council discussed specific statutory actions at this time. However, many local businesses have taken the steps, voluntarily, to cease or significantly change operations until the threat of the pandemic passes. We applaud and support these difficult decisions.

Though there are thankfully few cases of Covid-19 in South Dakota at this time, the testing has been very limited. The number of cases is anticipated to grow significantly. Community spread within the state is imminent if it has not already occurred and our community will not be spared. In order to slow the spread, the President has called on significant curtailment of business practices for a limited time. This is hoped to slow the spread and allow the medical community time to prepare and mitigate the issues that will ultimately arise. Additionally, yesterday, the Governor issued an Executive Order (attached) and this order advised that municipalities should:

- **Restrict** public gatherings of ten people or more, unless it is necessary.
- **Review** the business practices of each “enclosed retail business that promotes public gatherings” in their community for compliance with this Executive Order and protect the ability of those businesses to innovate.
- **Encourage** entrepreneurial innovation in the private sector to provide employment opportunities to protect the continued operation of the free market consistent with recommended CDC hygiene practices and understand that COVID-19 will impact their communities for potentially eight weeks or more.

With this in mind, I am entreating that all businesses ensure that there are no gatherings of more than 10 people. In addition, all businesses should ensure that their business practices are fully compliant with CDC recommendations (attached). To accomplish these aims, I am requesting you immediately take the following actions, if you have not done so already:

- 1) Ensure that there is continually cleaning and sanitizing protocols in place throughout your operational hours
- 2) Ensure that patrons are at least six feet apart from each other at all times in your establishment
- 3) Stop promoting and allowing any gatherings of more than 10 people

Office of the Mayor

1040 Harley-Davidson Way, Sturgis, SD 57785 • (605) 347-4422

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- 4) Ensure that customers are not touching various items and not purchasing them (especially produce)
- 5) If you maintain your restaurant and dining area is open to the public, you must ensure it is sanitized after each sitting, that there are fewer than ten individuals at each table, that tables are separated by at least six feet, and patron “groups” are separated by six feet. The option of take out, curb side service or delivery may still be used.
- 6) Any other health and sanitation precautions in line with CDC guidelines that would ensure the safety of your customers

While I recognize that this is a difficult request that will have significant impacts on you and your employees, these sacrifices are necessary as our community and nation fights this virus. I strongly encourage you to implement these actions immediately in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19. Together we can work to ensure that the community reduces the impact of this virus as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Carstensen, Mayor
City of Sturgis

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