



May 12, 2020

Greetings, Lodging Partners:

More than 200 of you joined the video conference facilitated by Explore Asheville on May 8 in which county officials provided insight for the lodging industry into Phase 1 of Buncombe's COVID-19 transition plan. Thank you for taking the time to join the discussion.

As promised, following is a summary of the order that began at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8, and is scheduled to run through 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22.

Phase 1: Top 8 Takeaways for Lodging Operators

- 1. NO LEISURE TRAVELERS FROM OUTSIDE WESTERN NC ARE PERMITTED UNTIL 5 PM MAY 22:** People who reside in towns and municipalities from WITHIN the 828 area code and want to stay overnight in Buncombe County lodging facilities for leisure purposes may now do so.
- 2. RESERVATIONS FOR LEISURE TRAVELERS FROM OUTSIDE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CAN START MAY 22 AT 5 PM, WITH A CAVEAT:** With the expectation that public health data on the spread of COVID-19 does not worsen between May 8 and May 22, it is okay for lodgers to accept bookings for leisure travel from outside Western North Carolina beginning the night of May 22. HOWEVER, lodgers accept the risk if Buncombe County deems it necessary to extend the restriction on leisure travelers from outside the 828 area code.
- 3. DOCUMENTATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS OR OTHER GUESTS:** Persons engaged in essential work or activities (such as medical professionals) may continue to stay in lodging facilities, but documentation of their essential business activity is no longer needed.

4. **MANDATORY SELF-QUARANTINE IS NO LONGER NEEDED:** Those coming from outside Buncombe County are no longer required to self-quarantine for 14 days (or the length of their stay, if shorter than 14 days), although self-quarantine by out-of-state guests is still encouraged.

 5. **LODGERS MUST CONTINUE TO FOLLOW ALL RECOMMENDED CDC GUIDELINES:** Including social distancing, the wearing of face coverings, proper disinfecting, frequent hand-washing, and screening of employees.

 6. **INTERPRETATION OF “LEISURE TRAVEL”:** There are several instances where it can be difficult to interpret the meaning of “Leisure Travel.” Basically, think of “Leisure Travel” as something that is neither business-related nor an obligation of some type. Examples:

NOT considered to be “leisure travel”:
 - Weddings, graduations, and funerals
 - Visiting family
 - Picking up or taking children to college or boarding school, or moving their belongings
 - Moving
Considered to be “leisure travel”:
 - Coming to Asheville/Buncombe from towns and municipalities outside the 828 area code for rest and relaxation, even if guests do not leave their hotel room or B&B or cabin or homestay
 - Coming to Asheville/Buncombe from outside the 828 area code for a honeymoon or vacation or for recreation

 7. **POOLS & FITNESS CENTERS MUST REMAIN CLOSED:** This includes both indoor and outdoor facilities.

 8. **BARS & RESTAURANTS MUST REMAIN CLOSED, WITH EXCEPTIONS:** Takeout, drive-through and delivery are acceptable.
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What Towns & Municipalities Are in the 828 Area Code?

Visit the [‘Stay Home, Stay Safe’ Compliance Toolkit for Lodging Partners](#) on the AshevilleCVB.com website to learn what counties are in the 828 area code. That page has other information specifically for lodging partners that you may find helpful.

Get info on other resources, such as on-demand webinars and more on the [Coronavirus Resources pages at AshevilleCVB.com](https://www.ashevillecvb.com/coronavirus-resources).



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