

May, 2020



DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

May Monthly Newsletter

The Department of Special Program Compliance would like to use the May, 2020 newsletter to communicate frequently asked questions and updates that would have been addressed during our regularly schedule Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting dated 5/12/20 that was cancelled. When the Department sent out the April, 2020 newsletter, we asked if there were any questions we could answer on the May, 2020 newsletter to send them to us and we would answer.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE EXTENSION

The Department of Special Program Compliance has received communications from individual VR and Homeshare owners, and agencies as well as the Vacation Rental Owners & Neighbors of Palm Springs (VRON-PS) concerning their Registration Certificate expiration dates and the impact from the COVID-19 moratorium interrupting their ability to provide lodging.

All vacation rental permit holders will receive an extension of their permit due to the inability to rent during the COVID-19 crisis.

The extension will be determined and applied based on the duration of the moratoriums that are currently in place.

- If the Registration Certificate expired during the moratorium and not renewed, the expiration date will be extended based on the duration of the moratorium. No late fee or penalties will be charged.
- If the Registration Certificate was renewed during the moratorium, the current expiration date will be extended to reflect the duration of the moratorium.
- For all properties not included in the above, the current expiration will be extended to reflect the duration of the moratorium.

CURRENT LOCAL AND STATE LODGING ORDERS

While the County has lifted their order, there is presently a City moratorium on the use of short term lodging (hotels and vacation rentals). The City order remains in place until 05/31/2020. Additionally, the State order to shelter in place remains, there should be no lodging for leisure or tourism at this time. The City of Palm Springs City Council will be meeting Thursday, May 21 at 3:00pm to discuss emergency orders such as the Short Term Lodging Order.

Here is the link to the City order: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showdocument?id=74337>

Based upon the latest orders from the State, "hotels/lodging for leisure and tourism" are identified as "higher-risk workplaces" that would **only be permitted in Stage 3**. Presently, our County is only in the early stages of Stage 2. That being said progressing through the re-opening stages is not based on time; rather, benchmarks. It is very difficult to determine when we will reach Stage 3. Here is the link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>.

Please recall that the hotels and lodging used to support essential workers and to provide housing solutions, including measures to protect the homeless are still permitted in Sector 13.

Here is the link: <https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/>

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Community Pools

The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health released a community pool guidance where if a property management company or HOA decides to open the pool, it is recommended to create a disinfection plan, post signage and implement physical distancing protocols and hand hygiene recommendations. Some of the recommendations are below and the full list is provided with the links that follow.

- Six feet separation is required, and swimmers should limit themselves to lanes
- No large groups or pool parties allowed. Families are permitted from the same household
- Lounge chairs and/or tables should be properly distanced. If they cannot be distanced, they should be secured and stored
- Close the spa or limit use to 1 person or household at a time (post signage)

<https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showdocument?id=74555>

<https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showdocument?id=74557>

<https://www.rivcoeh.org/Portals/0/PDF/COVID-19/83-20-DES-Community-Pool-Guidance-COVID-19.pdf>

Department Information

Renewal Applications

During the short-term lodging moratorium the Department is still accepting renewal applications.

The Department encourages you to send in the renewal application so when the Moratorium is lifted, Safety Inspections will resume and will be scheduled first-in / first-out.

Additionally, if your Registration Certificate is expired and you wish to wait until the short-term lodging moratorium is lifted, no late penalty will be charged.

Education and Training

Pursuant to Palm Springs Municipal Code [5.25.060\(f\)](#) Each applicant for a Registration Certificate, including without limitation the Owner and the Owner's agent and/or representative, shall annually attend and/or participate in an educational program.

If have not reviewed the education modules, please visit our website

[Education and Training](#)

The training videos address the most common operational questions received by the Department of Special Program Compliance. Your feedback is welcome on any new future topics.

COVID-19

The Department of Special Program Compliance thanks you for your continued understanding and support at this time with the Local Emergency Order.

For further information on COVID-19 please visit [COVID-19 updates](#) on our website by visiting the link above.

