



TO: Lincoln County Board of Commissioners  
Depoe Bay City Council  
Lincoln City Council  
Newport City Council  
Siletz City Council  
Toledo City Council  
Waldport City Council  
Yachats City Council

RE: a) Order # 6-20-168 (to be provided) --Reducing current gathering sizes of up to 25 persons with consideration of reducing gathering size to 10 persons.  
  
b) Modifying Order# 5-20-136 to remove 24-hour hold on lodging properties prior to cleaning and renting again

County Commissioners, Mayors, City Councilors and City Managers,

I am reaching out to you regarding Lincoln County and local cities' decisions to reduce current gathering sizes from 25 to 10 and to remove a 24-hr hold restriction on all lodging rentals as part of Phase I reopening requirements.

Reducing current gatherings from 25 people to 10 people will be harmful not only to the lodging industry but also to restaurants, both of whom host events and are struggling to survive on the coast right now. The ability to safely and responsibly host larger gatherings, even those of up to 25 people, will not only help these establishments survive this crisis but will help them bring back more employees who rely on their paychecks to make ends meet and provide for their families. **There are proven practices which can be undertaken by operators to keep employees and customers safe while still allowing for these gatherings of 25 people.**

Additionally, the lodging industry in the County will be severely impacted by the continuation of the 24-hour hold in between guest stays, which does not follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) guidelines.

In addition to a significant loss in revenue during peak summer months, the 24-hr hold requirement is adding unnecessary complexity and added labor hours to manage. It should be noted Lincoln County and many of the jurisdictions within it are the only places along the Oregon coast to institute such regulations. **The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA) does not support this mandate and we encourage the County to follow the CDC guidelines of allowing 15 minutes before entering a room to clean.**

ORLA released a Commitment to Safety checklist a few weeks ago for the industry to use as guidance for reopening. In developing them, we intended these guidelines to be “above and beyond” suggestions in addition to guidelines from public health officials. This particular practice was an optional idea listed as part of our Commitment to Safety checklist for those who had the opportunity or ability to practice it if they so choose. We never intended for these practices to become mandates from public officials.

We understand the language was perhaps confusing; we are currently updating our guidelines to make this and a few other pieces more clear. In accordance with AHLA and CDC standards, which do not include the 24-hour hold restriction, we will remove this piece. As new information continually comes to light about this disease, how it spreads and how we can combat it, we will continue to update these practices.

**We encourage you to remove the 24-hour hold mandate.** The scientific-based information from the CDC and others does not support it. Regarding this or any other matter, we are available to you at any time for questions, input or concerns.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you how important it is to remove the 24-hour hold on guest rooms as well as not restrict gatherings to 10 people or less but allow for gatherings of up to 25 people.

Thank you all for the work you do, especially now during this very challenging time.

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