

Press Release Ellicottville, NEW YORK Issued March 26, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM ELLICOTTVILLE TO OUR VISITORS, WEEKENDERS AND SECOND HOME OWNERS

Ellicottville, NY - The Ellicottville Town Board is issuing the following statement to its visitors, weekenders, second home owners and short term rental owners and listings:

To date we have seen an influx of travelers from outside the County who are staying at second homes and short term rentals, like Airbnb and Vrbo. The use of employees to leave their home, and operate and service non-essential business in this time of crisis appears to be a violation of the Governor's Executive Orders. While the property owners, and the vacation rental business may be seeking to profit by selling refuge from the larger amount of cases downstate, our visitors, and the businesses soliciting their business must be aware that this is a global pandemic, and their coordinated activities may be in violation of State Law, and be an unsound practice. All persons involved have a critical role to fulfill in halting the rapid spread of this deadly virus, and all must comply with the Emergency Orders issued by the Governor banning activities related to the operation of certain nonessential businesses.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has impacted New York State, which is responding with all available resources to contain a growing number of cases, which includes more than 37,000 confirmed cases and multiple deaths. We are lucky that we have very few cases in the region. However, a number of exposures will increase with the movement of non-residents into our area from other parts of the state and country, which will result in an inordinate strain upon the resources of public health, first responders, health care providers, our hospitals and other government personnel. Ellicottville is an extremely rural area with only about 1,500 residents. We have no hospitals and those that are close are not capable of handling an increased number of patients. Additional needs presented with the increased presence of out-of-town persons will tax our medical care system far beyond its capacity. Please note that most small businesses are closed, shops and restaurants are closed and grocery stores, while still open to the public, are experiencing a shortage of food and basic supplies. Grocery store hours of operation have been modified to keep up with the demand for food and supplies.

As a vaccine does not exist, we have little capacity to test, the closest hospitals are small and incapable of handling additional influx and our stores and infrastructure are incapable of providing supplies to a larger population, we are respectfully asking that you not travel to Ellicottville from any area at this time. You should not have an expectation that resources will be available to you here that are not available to you in your hometown.

This is in keeping with federal and state mandates that people stay at home and stay put. It is far better for you to stay home and limit your movements.

ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO PROPERTY OWNERS TO REMOVE SHORT TERM RENTAL LISTINGS FROM SERVICES SUCH AS AIRBNB AND VRBO.

In addition, the Town Board respectfully requests that all property owners, (including second homeowners) remove any short-term rental listings from services such as Airbnb, Vrbo and local rental agencies immediately and furthermore not rent. We must work together to minimize the spread of this virus across to our most vulnerable populations.

We respectfully ask that property owners comply with this request to limit new exposures and protect the health and welfare of all by complying.

Finally, non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations, or other social events) are canceled or postponed through April 22, 2020, pursuant to NYS Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Matthew McAndrew - Town Supervisor

Ellicottville Town Board