

**MAYOR MICHAEL R. BROWN
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA**

EMERGENCY ORDER 2020-9

Pursuant to the Declaration of Public Health Emergency dated March 16, 2020 and the authority set forth in Grand Forks City Code Section 2-0301, I, Michael R. Brown, Mayor of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, hereby order as follows:

Factual Findings/Background

1. On March 13, 2020 North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 16, 2020 I declared a public health emergency in the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, in response to the public health crisis resulting from the international spread of COVID-19.
3. On March 17, 2020 the Grand Forks County Board of Commissioners adopted a Grand Forks County Emergency Declaration as a result of the continued spread and threat of COVID-19.
3. The existence of COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to the public health and safety of the residents of the City of Grand Forks.
4. Proactively implementing preparedness for containment and mitigation, including quarantine and isolation, are necessary to slow the transmission and reduce the impact of the virus in the best interests of the residents of the City of Grand Forks.
5. Scientific and medical evidence and best practices identify that the most effective approach to address the spread of COVID-19 is to slow its transmission through various efforts including the use of social distancing, quarantine and isolation.
6. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Grand Forks and to preserve scarce or limited medical resources.
7. The availability of medical facilities in the City of Grand Forks is critical to the public health and well being and need to be preserved for the care of seriously ill patients affected by COVID-19 and other medical concerns.

8. A need exists in the City of Grand Forks for housing of individuals potentially needing to be quarantined or isolated, whose current housing situation does not allow them to do so safely or it is not feasible for them to do so.
9. The use of hotel/motel rooms for quarantine and isolation enhances the capacity for self-quarantine, medically ordered quarantine, and/or medically ordered isolation and is in the best interests for the public health, safety and welfare and can be reasonably expected to assist in reducing or slowing the spread of COVID-19.
10. The lack of adequate facilities for quarantine and/or isolation poses a substantial threat to the public health, safety and welfare and may result in further exposure to and spread of the COVID-19 virus to the public.
11. On the 24th day of March, 2020 I issued Emergency Order 2020-5 allowing for the expedited procurement of potential hotel/motel rooms to be used for quarantine and isolation if needed.
12. Alternative resources for temporary shelter have been investigated and evaluated. No other facilities or alternatives have been identified that are reasonably capable to provide shelter in a manner similar to that provided by the use of hotel/motel rooms or that such alternatives are more expensive than the use of hotel/motel rooms on a temporary basis.
13. No other reasonable solution or option exists so as to provide the protection to public health and safety as provided by the use of hotel/motel rooms on a temporary basis.
14. The use of noncongregate shelters, such as hotel/motel rooms, is necessary and reasonable to protect public health and safety. Such use is reasonably expected to lessen or avert the threat or further spread of the COVID-19 virus.
15. The use of noncongregate facilities such as hotel/motel rooms is consistent with guidelines issued by the CDC. (Interim Guidance dated March 9, 2020); CDC COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters).
16. Dr. Joel Walz, Grand Forks Public Health Officer, issued an Order on the 29th day of March, 2020 finding the existence of a public health emergency and directing the use of hotel/motel rooms for quarantine and/or isolation purposes. Such Order is hereby incorporated herein by reference.
17. I find the Order issued by Dr. Joel Walz to be reasonable, appropriate and necessary under the circumstances.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing I hereby concur with and join in the March 29TH, 2020 Order issued by Grand Forks Public Health Officer, Dr. Joel Walz. I further concur that there is a need for the continuation of social distancing and the use of hotel/motel rooms for safe quarantine and/or isolation of individuals whose current housing situation does not allow for safe or feasible quarantine or isolation. WWRB

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order as follows:

1. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department is hereby authorized, directed and ordered to provide temporary housing facilities by using hotel and motel rooms in the event of the following circumstances:
 - A. Persons with potential COVID-19 exposure that are without permanent housing facilities and are waiting for test results;
 - B. Persons with potential COVID-19 exposure that are residing in a congregate shelter and are waiting for test results;
 - C. Persons with potential COVID-19 exposure whose current housing situation does not allow them to quarantine safely or it is not feasible for them to do so in their current housing situation and are waiting for test results.
 - D. Persons with confirmed COVID-19 tests that are without permanent housing facilities.
 - E. Persons with confirmed COVID-19 tests that are residing in a congregate shelter.
 - F. Persons with confirmed COVID-19 tests whose current housing situation is not safe or feasible to quarantine or isolate.

2. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department, in consultation with the City's Public Health Officer, is hereby authorized to waive any provision of Grand Forks City Code Chapter XXI, Article 11 relating to the regulation and licensing of hotels/motels as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the protection of public health.

3. The Director of the Grand Forks Public Health Department is hereby authorized to expend such funds as may be necessary for temporary housing as described herein and to provide necessary support and essentials.

If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances should not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

This Order shall be effective upon its issuance and continue until modified, suspended or revoked by further order.

Date: 3/30/2020


MICHAEL R. BROWN, Mayor