



April 13, 2020

An Open Letter to Colorado's Hotel and Motel Owners and Operators:

First, I want to thank you, as business leaders in Colorado, for your efforts to date working in partnership with our state, your employees, local communities, and your customers on implementing protective and proactive measures during this unprecedented crisis. I also want to acknowledge the severe economic disruption the COVID-19 health emergency has had on the hospitality industry and reiterate the State is committed to minimizing the long-term economic impact and supporting recovery efforts.

Secondly, I want to clarify that the extended Shelter in Place Executive Order D 2020-024, which has been extended through April 26th, excludes all hotels and places of accommodation as critical infrastructure.

As I addressed the public on April 6, in these dark times, we all have a light to shine. And now we are asking Colorado hotels and motels to shine their light and rise to the challenge by entering agreements to temporarily house one of our state's most vulnerable populations. You have empty rooms and many of our cities have potential guests. A match made in heaven. We have been working tirelessly with social service providers across the state to help, but additional capacity to the shelter system is needed in order to lessen the spread of this contagious virus. For example, the State and Federal governments are aiding this effort by converting the Colorado Convention Center into a 2,000-bed field hospital this month to relieve pressure on our medical system along with other statewide efforts and mobilizing 250 National Guard members to assist existing shelters with staffing capacity. In the meantime, we need additional hotel rooms immediately while other resources are being prepared. The need for non-congregate rooms is urgent as there is a real potential for currently sheltered people to be forced into large scale, dangerous facilities or back onto the streets. I believe these measures will help get our fellow Coloradans living without a home out of environments that pose a risk to their overall health and wellbeing and will help further aid in flattening the curve.

I acknowledge there are many hurdles to overcome in rising to this challenge and I encourage you to work closely with your local leaders to find innovative solutions on this vital effort. Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. as we all continue this effort together to protect Coloradans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor