



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: (828) 265-8000**

**Date: May 21, 2020**

### **Watauga County Commissioners Approve Modified Plan to Lift Restrictions**

Boone, NC – On May 19th, Watauga County Commissioners approved modifications of their plan to lift the 14-day self-quarantine restriction for those arriving to the county for overnight stays and partially lift the short-term rental restriction in order to align with Governor Cooper’s phased plan for easing restrictions. Effective Friday at 5pm, the 14-day self-quarantine will end and short-term rentals may operate at 50 percent (50%) reduction in the listed maximum occupancy capacity as rated and published. Family members residing in the same residence are exempt from the fifty percent (50%) reduction in maximum capacity limit. Short-term rentals can operate at 100 percent (100%) capacity once we enter Phase 3 of the Governor’s plan. Campgrounds shall be subject to the same openings and restrictions as short-term rentals.

“The purpose of this update is to reflect the changes to the Governor’s 3-phase plan and align our plan in response to concerns from our citizens, the business community, and reflect the public health guidance from AppHealthCare. Watauga County Commissioners recognize the need to strike a balance between keeping our citizens and visitors safe and healthy and maintaining a vibrant economy. We will continue to prioritize health and safety and do our part to slow the spread of this virus in our community,” stated John Welch, Chairman, Watauga County Commissioners.

As we enter into Phase 2 of the Governor’s plan on Friday evening, we encourage the community to follow public health guidance to protect yourself and the community.

#### **How to Protect Yourself**

- Practice the 3Ws if you have to leave your house - wear a cloth face covering, wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer and wait 6 feet from others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Keep distance from others who are sick
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in common areas like doorknobs, remotes, light switches, tables and handles
- If you are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, stay home to the greatest extent possible to decrease the chance of infection.

For more information, visit [www.WataugaCounty.org](http://www.WataugaCounty.org) or call (828) 265-8000.

AppHealthCare is available and on-call 24/7 to respond to public health emergencies. To reach AppHealthCare, call (828) 264-4995 anytime and follow the prompts. AppHealthCare has set up a

COVID-19 hotline at 1+ (828) 795-1970 for information during regular business hours. For more information, visit [www.AppHealthCare.com](http://www.AppHealthCare.com) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

For more information on COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), please visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus). North Carolina resources can be found on the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services website at [ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus).

A COVID-19 toll free helpline has been set up to answer general, non-emergent questions at 1-866-462-3821. To submit questions online, go to [www.ncpoisoncontrol.org](http://www.ncpoisoncontrol.org) and select "chat."

###