



# **ORDINANCE No. \_\_\_\_\_**

## **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

### **AN UNCODIFIED TEMPORARY URGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS RELATED TO ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR, STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, AND THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) (4/5 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE REQUIRED)**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION I:** Findings

- A. A novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 is causing outbreaks of the coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) that has now spread globally; and
- B. On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of COVID-19; and
- C. On March 5, 2020, the Public Health Officer for the County of Nevada issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to the potential introduction of COVID-19 in Nevada County and associated threat to the public health; and
- D. On March 10, 2020, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada ratified the existence of a local emergency as proclaimed by the County Health Officer; and
- E. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, requiring all persons residing in the State to remain in their homes or places of residence, except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations for critical infrastructure (the “Shelter in Place Order”); and
- F. A violation of the Governor’s Executive Orders (N-25-20, N-33-20, and N-60-20) is a misdemeanor pursuant to California Government Code section 8665; and
- G. Government Code section 8634 states, “During a local emergency the governing body of a political subdivision, or officials designated thereby, may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, including orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries where necessary to preserve the public order and safety. Such orders and regulations and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread publicity and notice”; and
- H. On May 4, 2020 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-60-20, ordering residents to continue to obey State public health directives; and
- I. A violation of a state or local Health Officer’s order made to control the spread of COVID-19, is a violation of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-25-20, N-33-20, and N-60-20; and

J. California Health and Safety Code sections 120275 and 120295 make it a misdemeanor to violate certain sections of the Health and Safety Code, including those requiring individuals to comply with health orders, such as a state or local Health Officer’s shelter in place order or restrictions on indoor operations; and

K. Violations of the orders of County Environmental Health Director, state or local Health Officers, and/or the Governor of California, related to the control of the spread of COVID-19 present an immediate threat to the public peace, health and safety as described in Government Code section 25123(d) in that they increase the likelihood that the COVID-19 virus will spread throughout the County in a manner that may overwhelm our healthcare systems and may lead to injury and death that otherwise are likely to be substantially reduced through adherence to a state or local Health Officer’s orders; and

L. The immediate enforcement of the orders of the County Environmental Health Director, state or local Health Officers, and Governor of California, is necessary for the effective implementation of such orders for the purpose of controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Nevada County; and

M. California Government Code section 53069.4 provides authority to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to set administrative fines or penalties for violation of any ordinance enacted by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors; and

N. Establishing administrative fines or penalties as a mechanism to enforce the orders of the County Environmental Health Officer, state or local Health Officers, or Governor of California, on an urgency basis is necessary for such remedy to be effective and useful; and

O. The administrative fines or penalties will provide an alternative enforcement mechanism that will augment the County’s ability to combat the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

P. The Nevada County Board of Supervisors recognizes that businesses subject to COVID-19 Orders and which do not heed these Orders unfairly benefit from a lack of competition by those similarly situated business that remain in compliance with state and local COVID-19 Orders; and

Q. Government Code section 25131 expressly authorizes the Board of Supervisors to adopt an urgency ordinance immediately upon its introduction.

## SECTION II: Definitions

A. “Business Activity” or “business act” shall mean all for-profit and non-profit business and other commercial enterprises within the County of Nevada that are subject to COVID-19 Orders issued by the Public Health Officer for the County of Nevada, the Environmental Health Director for the County of Nevada, the State Public Health Officer, and all executive orders issued by the Governor of the State of California relating to COVID-19.

B. “COVID-19 Order” means an order of the Governor of the State of California or County of Nevada Health Officer, Statewide public health directive, and/or order of the County Environmental Health Department, that is now in existence, or later comes into existence, which is issued for the purpose of controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and which includes, but is not limited to, the Governor’s March 4, 2020 declaration of a State of Emergency, Executive Order N-33-20, issued by the Governor of the State of California on March 19, 2020, and Executive Order N-60-20, issued by the Governor of the State of California on May 4, 2020.

C. “Day” or “days” shall mean calendar days.

D. “Enforcing Officer” means the Health Officer of the County, or anyone designated by the Health Officer, any Code Compliance Officer, Environmental Health officer, anyone designated by the Director of the Community Development Agency, anyone designated by the County Executive Officer, any peace officer with jurisdiction in the County of Nevada, or anyone

identified by resolution of the Board.

E. “Responsible Party” means an individual or legal entity, or the agent or legal guardian of such individual or entity, whose action or failure to act violated a COVID-19 Order.

F. “Unfair Competition” shall have the same meaning as set forth in California Business and Professions Code section 17200.

SECTION III: Incorporation into County Law.

All COVID-19 Orders are hereby incorporated into this ordinance as the law of the County of Nevada.

SECTION IV: Nuisance Declaration.

All COVID-19 Orders issued by the County Environmental Health Director, the Public Health Officers for the County of Nevada and State of California, and all executive orders issued by the Governor of the State of California relating to COVID-19 are mandatory and enforceable within the County of Nevada. Violation of any COVID-19 Order hereby constitutes a violation of the Nevada County Code and is a public nuisance subject to enforcement through imposition of administrative fines or penalties as provided herein; by revocation or suspension of any County-issued permit; or by any other remedy available at law.

SECTION V: Enforcement.

COVID-19 Orders may be enforced by Enforcing Officers of the County of Nevada.

SECTION VI: Issuance of Notice or Citation; Fine/Penalty Amounts; Permit Revocation.

A. Each violation of a COVID-19 Order shall constitute a separate and distinct offense subject to a separate Administrative Citation or fine/penalty.

B. An Enforcing Officer may immediately issue an Administrative Citation to any Responsible Party violating any provision of a COVID-19 Order.

C. When an Enforcing Officer discovers, or otherwise determines that a violation of a COVID-19 Order occurred, such Enforcing Officer, in his or her discretion, may issue a Notice of Violation to the Responsible Party that provides a reasonable period of time, but no longer than 48 hours, to correct the violation. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an Enforcing Officer from immediately issuing an Administrative Citation if the Enforcing Officer determines such action is necessary to prevent further or continued violation.

If the Responsible Party has not corrected, or otherwise repeats the same violation as stated in the Notice of Violation, the Enforcing Officer may then issue an Administrative Citation that imposes an administrative fine/penalty.

D. The administrative fines/penalties for each violation of a COVID-19 Order shall be:

1. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a first violation;
2. Two thousand five-hundred dollars (\$2,500) for a second violation within one year of the first violation;
3. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each additional violation within one year of the first violation.

E. The administrative fine/penalty becomes effective and due immediately upon issuance of the Citation. The Responsible Party has ninety (90) days from the date of service of the Citation to pay the fine/penalty in the absence of a timely submitted request for an administrative hearing to appeal the citation.

F. The administrative fine/penalty, or any portion thereof, may be waived by the Enforcing Officer for good cause.

G. In addition to the issuance of an administrative fine/penalty, the County may suspend or revoke any County-issued permit whenever it finds that the permittee has violated any COVID-19 Order.

H. Pursuant to section 54988 of the Government Code and any other applicable state law, the County shall be entitled to recover fees, costs, and charges that have been incurred as a result of civil enforcement activity. Such fees and costs include, but are not limited to, administrative costs and attorney fees.

I. In the event the Responsible Party fails to pay the administrative penalties and costs when due, the County may take any action permitted by law to collect the unpaid administrative penalties and costs. Such action may include, but is not limited to, recordation of a lien on the subject property, including lien permitted under Government Code section 54988, or a small claims action for a civil money judgment. The County shall provide the owner of the property with a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice of intent to commence collection of the administrative penalties and costs, including the intended method of collection. Notice shall be deemed to have been received by The Responsible Party five (5) days after it was sent by certified mail to the Responsible Party's last known address, upon which the Responsible Party will have forty-five (45) days to pay the fine/penalty. If the Responsible Party fails to pay the fine/penalty within forty-five (45) days of notice of intent to commence collection proceedings, the County is authorized to commence collection proceedings. If the method of collection is by lien, the Responsible Party may request to appear before the Board of Supervisors to be heard regarding the amount of the proposed lien.

SECTION VII: Form and Service for Citation or Notice.

B. The Administrative Citation or Notice of Violation shall contain the following information:

1. the name and address of the Responsible Party;
2. the date and address or description of the location where the violation occurred;
3. reference to the applicable COVID-19 Order;
4. a brief description of the violation should be included if greater specificity is required to identify the violation;
5. the amount of the fine/penalty;
6. identification of appeal rights and a description of how to appeal;
7. the signature of the Enforcing Officer issuing the Citation along with the date of issuance of the Citation.

C. Any Administrative Citation or Notice of Violation issued pursuant to this ordinance may be served upon the Responsible Party by:

1. personal service;
2. first-class mail; or
3. posting the citation on any real property within the County in which County records indicate the Responsible Party has a legal interest.

Service shall be complete at the time of personal service, five days after mailing, or one day after

posting.

SECTION VIII: Appeals Process.

An individual who is issued an Administrative Citation or who has a permit suspended or revoked pursuant to this Ordinance may request an administrative hearing to contest the enforcement action by notifying the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within five (5) calendar days of the service of the notice of violation or citation. The administrative hearing procedures located in Nevada County Land Use and Development Code section L-II 5.23 (G) – (J) shall govern all requests for appeals of any notice or citation issued under this ordinance and all hearings conducted thereafter. For purposes of the hearing procedures, the reference to the individual cited pursuant to this Ordinance and “property owner” under L-II 5.23 (H) shall be interchangeable.

SECTION IX: Unfair Competition.

It shall be unlawful for any individual, business, or commercial enterprise to engage in any business act or operation in contravention of orders issued by the County’s Environmental Health Director, Local Health Officer, State Health Officer, or Governor of California.

SECTION X: Effective Date.

Pursuant to Government Code section 25123, this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption by a four-fifths (4/5ths) vote of this Board, and it shall become operative on the 11th day of August 2020.

SECTION XI: Ordinance Expiration.

This urgency ordinance shall continue in effect from the date of its adoption until rescinded by the Board of Supervisors, or until all COVID-19 Orders expire or are rescinded by the County of Nevada Public Health Officer, the State of California, and the federal government, and shall thereafter be of no further force and effect unless otherwise extended by the Board of Supervisors.

SECTION XII: Ordinance Filing.

This Ordinance shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, posted at the County of Nevada Eric Rood Administrative Center located at 950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City, California 95959, on the County of Nevada website, published in a local newspaper and posted in public spaces as practicable, and provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Ordinance.

SECTION XIII: Severability.

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

Before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, this Ordinance shall be published once, with the names of the Supervisors voting for and against same in The Union, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the County of Nevada.

SECTION XIV: No Duty to Enforce

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as imposing on the Enforcing Officer or the County of Nevada any duty to issue a Notice of Violation, nor to abate any COVID-19 Order violation, nor to take any other action with regard to any COVID-19 Order violation, and neither the Enforcing Officer nor the County shall be held liable for failure to issue a Notice of Violation of any COVID-19 Order violation, nor for failure to abate any COVID-19 Order violation, nor for failure to take any other action with regard to any COVID-19 Order violation.