

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Protections for Occupants of Residential Hotels During COVID-19 Pandemic]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish protections for occupants of residential hotels (“SRO Residents”) during the COVID-19 pandemic by, among other things: making it City policy to place in solitary hotel rooms SRO residents who meet the criteria for isolation or quarantine established by the County Health Officer, and requiring the Department of Public Health to post a notice in the common area and notify the operator of a residential hotel when an SRO Resident has tested positive for COVID-19, to facilitate contact tracing, testing for COVID-19, and cleaning; establish a telephone hotline for SRO Residents, to respond to questions about accessing COVID-19 health screenings, testing, and solitary hotel rooms; provide face coverings to SRO Residents and workers in residential hotels; and provide daily aggregate data concerning the incidence of COVID-19 among SRO Residents, access to quarantine rooms by such residents, and the number of such residents who have died due to complications from COVID-19.

Existing Law

This law is new.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance adds Administrative Code Chapter 41G to require certain protections for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotel residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This ordinance requires the City to place SRO residents in solitary isolation/quarantine hotel rooms where they meet the standards for isolation or quarantine established by the Health Officer, and to provide such residents with essential services and amenities, including three meals per day, during their placement in such a room.

This ordinance requires the Department of Public Health to:

- Consistent with state and federal laws governing the confidentiality of medical information, upon confirming that an SRO Resident has tested positive for COVID-19, post a notice to advise SRO Residents that a COVID-19 case has been identified in the building, of their rights to access I/Q Hotel Rooms, COVID-19 testing, and face coverings, and the number of the language-accessible COVID-19 telephone hotline so residents can access these resources.
- Notify residential hotel operators when a resident has tested positive for COVID-19 to facilitate contact tracing, testing, and cleaning.

- Provide personal protective equipment to SRO residents and workers who occupy areas of the residential hotel that have been accessed by people who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Establish a telephone hotline for SRO residents to facilitate screening, testing, referral to healthcare providers, and placement in solitary hotel rooms;
- Report daily data relating to the aggregate number of SRO hotels with residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, and other indicators;
- Take other specified steps to protect SRO residents against exposure to COVID-19 and to inform them of their rights.

This ordinance requires SRO operators to post information in public areas of residential hotels.

Background Information

Emergency ordinance (Ordinance No. 84-20 amended and reenacted by Ord. No. 161-20) temporarily established protections for occupants of residential hotels during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ord. No. 161-20 terminated automatically on November 11, 2020. An amendment and reenactment of Ord. No. 161-20 is pending and on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 201285.

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