

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee – February 18, 2021)

[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; 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

Since the onset of the COVID-19 emergency, the Board of Supervisors has enacted and re-enacted emergency legislation to require protections for residents of Single Room Occupancy (“SRO”) hotels. See Ord. No. 84-20, reenacted by Ord. No. 161-20 and Ord. No. 271-20. That emergency legislation will sunset on February 22, 2021.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance adds Administrative Code Chapter 41G to codify the protections for SRO hotel residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency that had been required by emergency ordinance. 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, and notify residential hotel operators when a resident has tested positive for COVID-19 to facilitate contact tracing, testing, and cleaning.

- 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.
- To the extent consistent with state and federal laws governing the confidentiality of medical information, refer SRO residents to COVID-19 testing and resources when there is an outbreak in the SRO consisting of at least three probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period in epidemiologically-linked residents.

Background

This legislative digest reflects amendments made in the Government Audit and Oversight Committee on February 18, 2021 to:

- Require COVID-19 testing of SRO Residents only where there is an outbreak in the SRO;
- Remove the requirement that the City provide face coverings; and
- Revise the data reporting requirements.