



April 7, 2020

Chris Lehane
Senior Vice President for Global Policy and Communications
Airbnb, Inc.
888 Brannan Street
Suite 4
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Lehane:

By Executive Order dated March 19, 2020, and pursuant to powers granted to by law, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine ordered that no person or entity shall operate a place of business that is not a life-sustaining business, regardless of whether the business is open to members of the public. These orders (the “COVID-19 Orders”) are necessary to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. For further information regarding what operations are or support a life-sustaining business sector, please see the Governor’s Industry Operations Guidance, (<https://www.scribd.com/document/452553026/UPDATED-4-00pm-April-1-2020-Industry-Operation-Guidance>) and the Department of Community and Economic Development’s Frequently Asked Questions document (<https://www.scribd.com/document/452553495/UPDATED-4-00pm-April-1-2020-Life-Sustaining-Business-FAQs>).

With limited exceptions noted in the FAQ document listed above, short-term rentals, such as those regularly advertised on Airbnb.com, Vrbo.com, and similar websites, are not life-sustaining businesses under the COVID-19 Orders. However, homeowners and landlords have continued to use these websites to advertise the availability of lodging opportunities to residents of Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Such actions undermine ongoing virus mitigation efforts by state and federal agencies, unnecessarily putting the health of the public in even greater jeopardy than is already the case.

While we are making every effort to address this issue on the demand (consumer) side of the transaction, I am writing to request your assistance in addressing the supply side. Please advise the homeowners and landlords promptly that advertise through your website that they are not life-sustaining businesses under Pennsylvania’s COVID-19 Orders and, further, that they are expected to immediately cease all rental activity until further notice. We are hoping to achieve voluntary compliance, and wish to avoid enforcement action by the Commonwealth that would cause significant consequences for the offenders.

I would appreciate written confirmation of your compliance with this request, including copies of any communications that you issue to your users on this matter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in safeguarding the public health during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis M. Davin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis M. Davin
Secretary

Cc: Belinda Johnson, Rich Baer