FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County and beach municipalities – work towards safe plan for limited beach use for healthy exercise, details not anticipated until Tuesday

April 18, 2020 – Flagler County convened a virtual meeting of key stakeholders on Saturday to review the latest public health guidance and have a discussion about actions required to proceed with a limited reopening of the entire length of the beach for exercise on a trial basis. The exact details continue to be ironed out, and a formal announcement will likely be made on Tuesday.

“We are trying to avoid the missteps of other jurisdictions,” said County Administrator Jerry Cameron. “The goal is safety. We’ve been encouraged by and continue to monitor our park trails experiment – our residents are following extreme social distancing. We don’t want to string too many hours together at the beach, which could encourage day trippers to travel here from other areas.”

When initially limited beach hours are established it will be for physical exercise, like walking and running, which also offers mental health benefits, said Florida Department of Health-Flagler Administrator Bob Snyder.

“This is a public health approach to opening up the beach,” he said.

The goal of this limited reopening of the beaches is to provide Flagler County residents the opportunity to get fresh air and exercise – not for socializing.

“We must continue to put our community’s health first, and ensure that we protect everyone in a manner that is consistent with the latest guidance from our public health experts.” said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord. “We ask the public to keep in mind the impact that their individual actions may have on others, as restrictions are modified over the coming days, weeks, and months.”

All residents and businesses must abide by Executive and Emergency Orders, and follow Florida Department of Health and CDC guidance, to include:

- Staying home except when engaged in essential services or activities
- Wearing cloth face coverings when out in public
- Practicing aggressive social distancing at all times – people should keep a minimum of 6 feet of space between one another, and keep groups to less than 10, which includes while shopping and waiting in the check-out line
- Frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Avoiding close contact with people who are, or may be, sick

Additionally, those who are sick and/or told to self-isolate are to: remain at home unless seeking medical care, cover coughs and sneezes, wear a facemask around others, and disinfect touched surfaces daily.

COVID-19 health related questions or concerns should be directed to your regular healthcare provider or the Florida Health hotline at 866-779-6121.

COVID-19 business concerns should be directed to the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation at 866-532-1440.

All other COVID-19 government services questions or concerns may be directed to a specific municipality or the Emergency Operations Center at 386-313-4200.

Check for current information on Flagler County’s website www.flaglercounty.org, and follow “Flagler County Government” or “Flagler County Emergency Management” on Social Media. The county’s social media team will provide updates through these official accounts:

Flagler County Government
- Facebook.com/FlaglerCountyGovernment

Flagler County Emergency Management
- Facebook.com/FlaglerEOC
- Twitter.com/FlaglerEOC
- Instagram.com/FlaglerEOC

###