

Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Do not focus on the numbers, assume COVID-19 is within the community and follow public health guidelines

March 18, 2020 – Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord is asking Flagler County residents not to focus on the number of COVID-19 cases, or lack of official cases in Flagler County, and to focus instead on the one thing that will keep the community safe – follow the public health guidelines established by the Florida Department of Health and the CDC.

“We are asking people of all ages to adhere to the guidance provided by health officials,” Lord said. “Everyone is hearing ‘flatten the curve’ and following these guidelines is the best way to ensure this happens. It’s really about personal responsibility, and protecting our entire community.”

Flagler County is committed to protection of its residents, and it will work closely to implement additional public protective measures as they become necessary. The Emergency Management team has been working with the county’s municipalities and private sector partners to better address the needs of residents.

The following measures are in place – some by state executive order:

- All gatherings, including at the beach, are limited to no more than 10 people, and distance themselves from other parties by 6 feet.
- Restaurants are immediately limited to 50% of their current building occupancy, and must maintain a minimum of six feet between groups of patrons, and those groups are to be limited to no more than 10.
- All bars, pubs, and nightclubs are to suspend the sale of alcoholic beverages.
- Flagler County Public Library System is now closed to the general public, but staff will work with limited services available by calling 386-446-6763.
- Flagler County has modified its Adult Daycare and Wickline Senior Services to become a meal delivery service, and all clients have been notified.
- Community Centers and county park pavilions are closed through April 30.

Additionally, Gov. Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program on Monday, March 16 to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experience economic injury from COVID-19. The application period runs through May 8. For

Charles Ericksen, Jr.
District 1

Greg Hansen
District 2

David Sullivan
District 3

Joe Mullins
District 4

Donald O’Brien, Jr.
District 5

more information, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org or contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network by phone at 866-737-7232, or email at disaster@FloridaSBDC.org.

Officials urge all residents and businesses to follow Department of Health and CDC guidance, to include:

- Washing your hands often
- Stay home when possible
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Those who are sick and/or told to self-isolate
 - Staying home
 - Covering coughs and sneezes
 - Wearing a face mask around others
 - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.

Anyone with government services questions should call Flagler County's main telephone line to get further clarification, 386-313-4000. All COVID-19 related questions should be directed to the hotline, 866-779-6121.

Check for current information on Flagler County's website www.flaglercounty.org, and follow "Flagler County Government" or "Flagler County Emergency Management" on Facebook or Twitter. The county's social media team will provide updates through these *official* accounts:

- [Facebook.com/FlaglerCountyGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/FlaglerCountyGovernment)
- [Facebook.com/FlaglerEOC](https://www.facebook.com/FlaglerEOC)
- [Twitter.com/FlaglerEOC](https://twitter.com/FlaglerEOC)
- [Instagram.com/FlaglerEOC](https://www.instagram.com/FlaglerEOC)

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