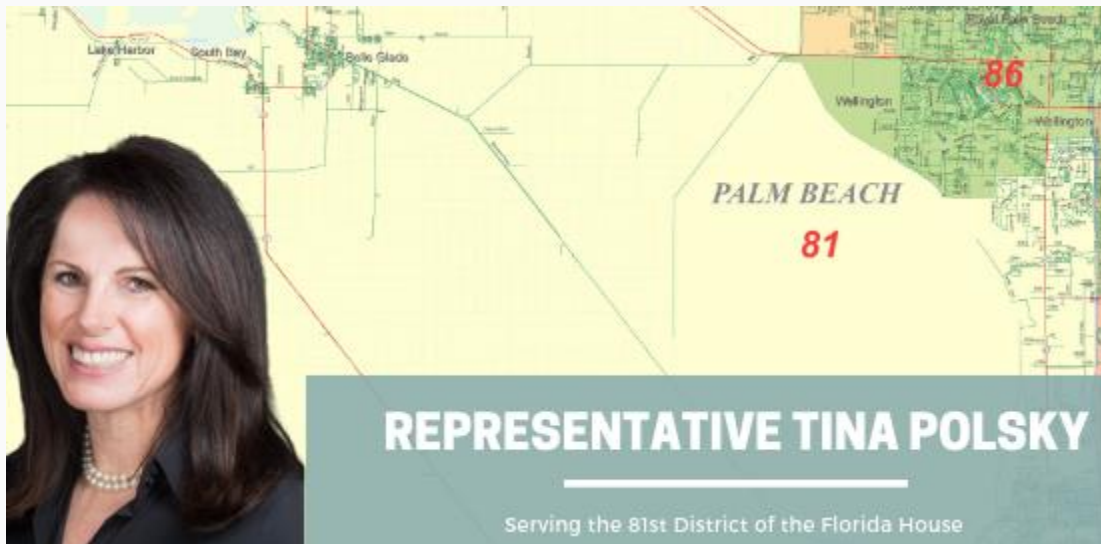


[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Friends,

**\*SEE BELOW FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION\***

The Governor, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Health, Local Leaders, and I are working diligently to respond to COVID-19. In an effort to keep you all safe and informed I have put together this COVID-19 Resource Guide. I am hopeful that this will provide you with the information that we receive from all government levels into one easy to digest place.

Although we are working remotely, my staff and I are here to help. Please reach out to us via email at [Tina.Polsky@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Tina.Polsky@myfloridahouse.gov) or call (561) 470-2086 as we are checking voicemails regularly.

For the most up to date information please follow me on Facebook, @RepPolsky81.

Stay Safe!

Representative Tina Polsky

## Important Announcements

- Hurricane Season begins June 1! Time to start preparing your home for a storm. In order to help ensure that you are ready for this season, this year's Disaster Preparedness Tax-Free holiday is May 29-June 4. Throughout this time reusable ice packs, flashlights, gas containers, batteries, radios, generators, and more will be exempt from sales tax. To see what specific items are exempt from sales tax during this week you can visit, <https://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep/>.

### Testing Announcements

- Home Depot announced that they will be launching test sites at locations throughout the state, the first and only one so far right here in District 81! The Home Depot at the corner of Glades Road and 441 (9820 Glades Road, Boca Raton) will now be testing for COVID-19 under a tent in the parking lot. No appointments are necessary, simply walk up and be tested.
  - Publix has also announced that it will begin testing in their parking lots soon. As soon as that information is released I will make sure to pass that along!
- Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, with the support of the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, **will begin the testing of homebound residents**. Residents eligible for the new testing option include homebound elderly or individuals with disabilities who are **experiencing symptoms of COVID-19** and cannot leave their homes to access one of the drive-up or walk-up test collection sites.
  - Residents who believe they are eligible for the in-home testing option should call the Palm Beach County Emergency Information Center (EIC) at 561-712-6400. Appointments for testing are

subject to an assessment. The testing line is open from 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday.

- FAU site: Palm Beach County in cooperation with American Medical Response (AMR), Florida Division of Emergency Management, and Florida Atlantic University has opened a community-based site at FAU Tech Runway (901 NW 35 St, Boca Raton). Those coming for testing should enter from Spanish River Boulevard. Appointments are required for testing--to make an appointment call 1-800-209-7919. Testing will be available to anyone 12 years or older, with or without COVID-19 symptoms. A proper photo ID will be required for testing.
- The Health Care District's C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics' site at the Delray Beach clinic is located at 225 South Congress Avenue. Testing at this walk-up site is available by appointment Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.
  - Residents are encouraged to call the Health Care District's Testing Hotline, [561-642-1000](tel:561-642-1000), to schedule appointments at all of its testing sites. Testing is open to individuals of any age who do not need to be symptomatic.
- Boca Regional Urgent Care is now able to test for COVID-19 antibodies. They have partnered with Quest Diagnostics to use their new COVID-19 IgG test to check for the antibodies of the COVID-19 infection. If you had the infection, think you may have had the infection or were exposed to someone who had the infection and want to be checked you can come into the clinic and have the test administered.
  - Boca Regional Urgent Care is located at 20665 Lyons Road and can be reached at (561) 883-6677.
- MD Now is currently offering COVID-19 testing at certain Palm Beach County locations M-F from 8 am-4 pm. Please note appointments are REQUIRED and MD Now accepts most major insurances - you can visit [MDNow.com](http://MDNow.com) for more information. The following locations are offering testing for people with MILD symptoms and first responders and/or healthcare workers without symptoms:
  - Boca Raton North, 1200 Yamato Road Ste. A7, Boca Raton

- Call to schedule an appointment: 561-220-4011
  - Boynton Beach East, 1625 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach, FL
    - Call to schedule an appointment: 561-220-4280
  - West Palm Beach/South Dixie, 2606 S Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach
    - Call to schedule an appointment: 954-737-4351
  - Palm Beach Gardens East, 2534 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens
    - Call to schedule an appointment: 561-899-5978
- South County Civic Center Testing site: The testing site is located at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach.
  - Cleveland Clinic Florida has expanded criteria for individuals eligible for COVID-19 testing. Anyone over the age of 16 who has the following signs and symptoms will be eligible for testing at our South Palm Beach County drive-through location:
    - Fever or Non Febrile respiratory illness (such as cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, and/or sore throat)
    - Fever and gastrointestinal illness (such as diarrhea and/or vomiting)
    - Persons without symptoms who come from racial and ethnic minority groups disproportionately affected by adverse COVID-19 outcomes (currently African Americans, Hispanics and Latinos, or American Indian tribes) and a physician's order for testing. Must be presented at drive-thru site in order for the testing to be performed.
    - Individuals must still call first to speak with a nurse to ensure they meet criteria and make an appointment for testing at **561-804-0250**.
- Absolutely **anyone** is able to visit the testing site at the **Ballpark of the Palm Beaches**; you don't need to be symptomatic to be tested, but you need to state that you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19. However, an appointment is necessary; to get an appointment please call **561-642-1000**.

- Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade will begin drive-thru testing tomorrow which is in addition to the walk-up service that is currently being offered. You do not need to be symptomatic but an appointment is **required**. Please call **561-642-1000** to schedule an appointment.

### **Reemployment Assistance Announcements**

- Please note, the work search requirement waiver **ENDS** on May 30, as of today, the Governor **HAS NOT** extended this waiver. If he does not sign the extension of the waiver this means that starting May 31, Floridians will be required to complete the work search requirement in order to receive their benefits. Those who have applied for unemployment will need to complete the following in order to receive benefits:
  - Submit a minimum of five (5) work search contacts or details of a single CareerSource Center visit for each week.
    - You must provide the following information about each employer you contact
      - Date & method of contact
      - Employer/Agency/Website Contact Name
      - Based on method of contact:
        - Location address
        - Website
        - Email address
        - Telephone/Fax Number
      - Type of work sought and position name or reference number
      - Result of Contact
    - For a CareerSource Center visit, you must provide the following information
      - Date of visit
      - Name and Address of CareerSource Center
      - Method of Contact
      - Type of work sought
      - Type of reemployment services received

- This week, DEO, in partnership with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, launched a website to verify the identity of claimants who have been locked out of their CONNECT account, the online system for processing Reemployment Assistance claims.
  - Individuals who were locked out of their CONNECT account have been notified and provided a direct link to verify their information so they can access their account and have their Reemployment Assistance claims processed.
- The Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program application is now available. This program, offered through the federal CARES Act and administered by DEO, provides up to 13 weeks of benefits to a claimant who has exhausted their Reemployment Assistance benefits.
  - Floridians will need to apply for PEUC benefits once the balance of their current claim is exhausted. Floridians who have already exhausted their benefits or have a Reemployment Assistance claim that expired after July 1, 2019, will also be able to apply.
  - Through PEUC, Floridians may be eligible for up to \$275, in addition to the \$600 through Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), in weekly benefits. The additional \$600 through FPUC applies only to weeks of unemployment beginning March 29, 2020 and ends with the week ending July 25, 2020.
  - All claimants participating in PEUC will still be required to claim weeks on a biweekly basis, certifying that they remain unemployed and are able and available for work during the weeks they are receiving PEUC. The first week a claimant can be eligible for this benefit is the week beginning March 29, 2020, and the last payable week is the week ending December 26, 2020.
  - Unemployed Floridians who have exhausted their state Reemployment benefits will be notified with the next steps for PEUC.
    - Click [here](#) for PEUC Application Process.
    - Click [here](#) for PEUC Frequently Asked Questions.

- Click [here](#) for COVID-19 Employment Scenarios.

### **State Announcements**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved Florida's request to implement the Pandemic EBT program across the state. Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, will provide nutrition benefits to the families of more than 2 million children eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches, and is administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), in partnership with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Eligible families will automatically receive this supplemental benefit in the month of June, with funding made possible by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Additional information will be available from DCF.

### **County Announcements**

- CareerSource Palm Beach County's Central Career Center (3400 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach) will reopen with limited services from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm on June 1, 2020. Career Centers in Belle Glade and Delray Beach remain closed until further notice. The organization will also continue to provide virtual services online and by email and phone to serve customers.
  - Customers are required to wear masks or face coverings while on-site, submit to touchless temperature monitoring and answer screening questions before entering the center, sanitize their hands upon entry into the center and maintain proper social distancing at all times.
  - No children or non-service visitors will be allowed due to health and safety reasons. Those unable or unwilling to follow these restrictions cannot enter.
  - Those with 100-degree temperature or above, or anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, cannot enter and will be advised to contact a healthcare provider.
  - Staff have been furnished with personal protective equipment such as shields and masks. They are required to submit to touchless temperature monitoring and answer screening questions when they report to work, clean/sanitize work areas, and maintain proper social distancing at all times. Those with 100-degree temperature or

above, or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, cannot enter and will be advised to contact a healthcare provider.

- The Palm Beach County Library System will reopen all locations to the public starting on Monday, June 1 at 10 am. The library will start with reduced hours and services to ensure the safety and health of our residents and staff. The attached flyer provides an overview. Additional information will be available online later today at [www.pbclibrary.org](http://www.pbclibrary.org). The Bookmobile will also return to the road on a reduced schedule.
  - The Library's walk-up holds service will continue in an "on demand" mode for the next two weeks. As well, the Library encourages residents to continue using our electronic services, eBook collection and to contact staff by phone, email, or through the "Ask a Librarian" chat service.
  - The Library System will monitor usage and slowly add additional services and operating hours based on consultation with County Administration.

### **Food Distribution Announcements**

- United Way has launched an [Interactive Food Finder map](#) to assist in locating food and hot meals across Palm Beach County.
- Twice-a-week meal distribution will return on Tuesday, May 12, and Thursday, May 14, and continue through the month of May. For the list of School District and Community Feeding Sites visit: [PalmBeachSchools.org/FeedingSites](http://PalmBeachSchools.org/FeedingSites)
- Feeding South Florida food distribution sites provide a drive-thru food distribution for anyone. You can find their calendar of Food Distributions at [www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19](http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19) please note the list is updated daily, as dates, times, and locations may change.
- The Pre-Summer Food Service Program has been expanded! Meals will be distributed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, or until all meal kits are distributed. Each child will receive a week's worth of meals at the distribution. Parents picking up kids without



their child must bring some kind of identification for the child (student id, child's passport, birth certificate, immunization records, etc.)

- Monday Distribution:
  - Highridge Family Center, 4200 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach
  - Main Library, 3650 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach
  - Greenacres Branch Library, 3750 Jog Road, Greenacres
- New Tuesday Distribution:
  - Lantana Road Branch Library, 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth
  - West Boca Branch Library, 18685 State Road 7, Boca Raton
- Wednesday Distribution:
  - Belle Glade Branch Library, 725 NW 4th Street, Belle Glade
  - Loula V. York Branch Library, 525 Bacom Point Road, Pahokee
  - Clarence E. Anthony Branch Library, 375 SW 2nd Ave., South Bay

### **Other Important Announcements**

# You are NOT

The COVID-19 crisis is a stressful and trying time. It is important to know these resources and share them with others.



## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

## Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-422-4453

[www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

## National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

[thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org)

## Crisis Text Line

text HOME to 741741

[www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)

## Palm Beach County Service

Sched

appo

(561)

## 211 Pa

Coas

Dial 2

with c

profe

211pa

Offic

- The 2020 Census is still underway! Please complete your form online, by phone, or by mail when your invitation to respond arrives.
  - Please note that if you are responding online, you must complete the census in one sitting, as you don't have the ability to save your progress. You can see [the questions the census asked](#). Even if you did not receive an invitation to respond from the Census Bureau, you may respond online or visit our [Contact Us](#) page to call our phone line.
    - For more information about the response methods, please visit the following links.
      - [How to Respond by Phone](#)
      - [How to Respond by Mail](#)
      - [How to Respond Online](#)
    - The Census Bureau began mailing paper questionnaires in mid-April to homes that had not yet responded. If you have not already responded, please complete and [mail back](#) your form as soon as you receive it. And if you prefer, you still have the option of [responding online](#) or by phone instead.
- The County is working hard to make sure that our upcoming Primary and General Elections are as safe as possible! With that in mind, we would like to see as many folks as possible register to vote by mail. You can request a vote-by-mail ballot three different ways:
  - Online [Mail Ballot Request Service](#)
  - By Phone: (561) 656-6208
  - By Fax: (561) 656-6230

---

## District 81 COVID-19 Heroes!

SO PROUD OF THIS  
COVID-19

---



---

Heroes

Thank you to so many heroes in the Glades for organizing food distributions

every week in each city. And thank you [Anquan Boldin](#) for providing testing and everything you do for the community. We appreciate you all so much! [#herooftoday](#) [#lovedistrict81](#) Guardians of the Glades

**If you know a COVID-19 Hero who should be recognized, please send me an email with a picture and description of what they are doing during this crisis (and their permission for me to post) to [Tina.polsky@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Tina.polsky@myfloridahouse.gov).**

---

## Previous Announcements and Information

### Department of Health

The Department of Health has launched a new [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#), which will be updated twice daily to bring you the most up to date information on the spread of the virus.

*What you need to know about COVID-19*

#### Symptoms

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

#### How does it spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). This is why it is important to practice social distancing. Even if you yourself are not at risk, you may be a carrier, and staying home can help protect the most vulnerable in our community.

- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Adults 60 years or older and those with underlying medical conditions are more likely to develop serious illness.

### Testing Site Updates

- A new testing site in **SOUTH COUNTY** will be opening tomorrow, April 7. The testing site will be located at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach.
  - Persons wishing to be tested must be preapproved and have an **appointment** before coming to the drive-thru center. Beginning today, Cleveland Clinic will be conducting phone screenings to set appointments. The number is **561-804-0250**. The phone interview will cover the presence of symptoms, possible exposures, and risk factors.
- Please note, the testing site at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches will likely be opening and closing several times throughout the weeks to come, as they can only schedule appointments based on the number of test kits they receive. If you are experiencing symptoms, have come in contact with someone who has tested positive, or have recently traveled to a COVID-19 hotspot, please call the hotline, (561) 642-1000, for a pre-screening and appointment.
  - Results from tests at the site are expected within five to six days.
  - Although this site is open, I want you to know that I am still concerned that there are no drive-thru testing sites in South Palm Beach County and will continue to work with the State and Federal emergency operations to bring such a site to District 81. Please know that our area is a high priority and we will continue to work on this.
- The new drive-thru testing site at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches will begin testing on Tuesday, March 31. In order to be tested, you must be

pre-screened and have an appointment-there will be NO walk-ins. You can contact the Health Care District of Palm Beach County testing line: (561) 642-1000 to be pre-screened and set up appointments.



## Palm Beach County COVID-19 Testing Site FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches

**What:** A Palm Beach County COVID-19 drive thru testing site in collaboration with the County Commissioners, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, the Florida Department of Health, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

**Where:** FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches  
5444 Haverhill Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida. *Entry on Haverhill Road.*

**When:** Telephone registration and appointment scheduling will begin on Monday, March 23, 2020, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. On-site testing (swab sample collection only) will begin on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. *Preapproval and appointments are required.*

**Who:** Individuals requesting testing will be approved through telephone screening by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Screening criteria will include presence of symptoms and other risk factors.

**How:** Call Health Care District of Palm Beach County testing line: (561) 642-1000. A telephone screening will be conducted to determine eligibility for COVID-19 testing. Callers approve an appointment date and time slot for arrival at the testing site. Upon arrival at the testing site, a check-in procedure will be conducted that will include verification of appointment time. Appointments will be turned away and directed to call the Health Care District of Palm Beach County to schedule an appointment. The check-in procedures and the testing (swab sample collection) will be conducted through an open window of the vehicle. No one will be permitted to enter the testing site.

**Results:** Testing results will be reported to the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and the patient and the Palm Beach County Health Department. Results can be expected within 24-48 hours; however, it may take longer. Individuals testing positive will be advised of their results and referred for medical care if necessary.

**Cost:** Free

- Please note, the COVID-19 hotline is experiencing a very high call volume with extended wait times. Your call is important and they are doing their best to get to each and every call as quickly as possible.

### **State Updates**

- Governor DeSantis announced that restrictions on juvenile activities and camps are lifted.
  - However, it is important that you reach out to your child's activity and/or camp to see what their plans for this summer are.
- **Starting Monday, May 18, all of Florida will be entering the full Phase one of the Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Re-Opening Plan.**



# FULL PHASE 1

Effective Monday, May 18, 2020

## RESTAURANTS & FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

- ✓ May increase indoor capacity to 50% with proper social distancing
- ✓ Outdoor seating encouraged

## RETAIL

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity indoors

## MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity if permitted by local governments

## GYMS & FITNESS CENTERS

- ✓ May operate up to 50% capacity
- ✓ Self-sanitize machines and surfaces after use

## AMUSEMENT PARKS

- ✓ May submit re-opening plan to the State

## PROFESSIONAL SPORTS VENUES

- ✓ Professional sports teams are welcome in Florida
- ✓ Professional sports venues may open and operate for games, events and training

## VACATION RENTALS

- ✓ Counties may seek approval to operate vacation rentals by submitting a written request and county vacation rental safety plan to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

## ELECTIVE SURGICAL FACILITIES

- ✓ Elective surgical facility has surge capacity to prevent community outbreaks

## BARBER SHOPS & SALONS

- ✓ Barber shops and salons may operate with safety protocols

## SCHOOLS

- ✓ Students can resume in-person learning

## LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

- ✓ Visitation in long-term care facilities is prohibited
- ✓ Hospitals re-open before discharging patients to long-term care facilities
- ✓ Long-term care facilities may transfer COVID-19 patients to the facility if appropriate

Safe. S



- Please note, Palm Beach County has additional restrictions.
  - Libraries remain closed
  - Updates have been made to the regulation of recreational activities, including but not limited to:
    - Doubles Tennis, Pickleball, and Raquetball are now allowed
    - Monitoring requirements for community pools have been revised to allow management to designate a pool monitor, which can be an HOA/COA board member, volunteer, etc, to ensure that CDC guidelines are being adhered to.
    - Basketball courts are now open.
    - Golf practice facilities are now open but players must be 10 feet apart
    - Dog parks, skate parks, and bicycle tracks are open but CDC recommendations must be followed.
- Also starting Monday, May 18 Palm Beach County will reopen all public, municipal and private beaches, including beach parks, with the following conditions and restrictions:
  - Beaches will be open between sunrise and sunset only.
  - Parties accessing the beaches shall follow CDC guidelines by limiting gatherings to no more than 10 persons and distancing themselves from other parties by six feet.
  - Beach operations at the county-owned South Inlet Park will follow restrictions for Boca Raton municipal beaches.
  - Please note, that Boca Raton municipal beaches are open, however, parking at the beaches will be CLOSED. You will need to walk up to the beach or be dropped off.
    - Please check with other municipalities regarding beach rules and regulations before visiting the beach.
- Governor DeSantis has extended the Foreclosure and Eviction moratorium through June 2, 2020 (Executive Order 20-121).

- Twenty percent of the Florida Legislature, including myself, submitted letters to the Secretary of State calling for a Special Session to help address some of the concerns during the COVID-19 crisis, including unemployment, health care, and voting. Yesterday was the final day to submit votes for or against the Special Session and unfortunately, 20 Senators and 60 Representatives voted against the Special Session. At this point the Legislature is not set to meet again until March 2021, however, a special session can still be called for by proclamation by the Governor or a joint proclamation of the Senate President and the Speaker of the House.
- Governor DeSantis has launched his Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida Recovery. While this plan doesn't make any major changes to life here in Palm Beach County I wanted to provide you with the details about Executive Order 20-112.
  - Outside of Miami Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties EO 20-112 will maintain limitations on the movements of people except for those businesses and services that are currently open and those businesses that re-open at 25% building occupancy.
  - Throughout the state, medical services including elective procedures, surgical centers, dentists, and other health care practitioners may fully re-open. As a condition of resuming elective procedures, hospitals will be required to assist nursing homes and long-term care facilities in their efforts to protect the vulnerable.
  - Airport screenings will be extended.
  - EO 20-112 still requires appropriate social distancing and limits groups to 10 people or fewer!
  - Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties continue to work together and are attempting to coordinate where possible.
- Strategic Targeted Outreach Program (STOP) COVID-19 FRAUD is a public outreach campaign of critical information to the public related to COVID-19 fraud and criminal activity. The campaign provides facts, tips, and red flags and will guide the public on how to recognize potential fraud, protect themselves from it, and report it to authorities. The public is

encouraged to report potential fraud to [COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV](mailto:COVID19FRAUD@DHS.GOV). For more information, please visit their [site](#).

- The Department of Children and Families has announced the extension of the increase of SNAP benefit amounts through the month of May. They have also implemented a six month recertification extension for clients who are scheduled to recertify their benefits in April and May.
  - DCF is also developing a plan to implement Pandemic EBT, a supplemental benefit for households whose children receive free and reduced lunch.
- Palm Beach County is working with the State Department of Health to identify and open different walk-up and pop-up testing sites throughout the county to help address testing needs throughout the county. As of this morning, no locations have been confirmed.
- The Department of Elder Affairs has partnered with the Florida Alzheimer's Association to bring the gift of music to socially isolated seniors and adults with dementia by distributing over 1,000 pre-loaded MP3 players to these Floridians and their caregivers.
- The Department of Revenue has created a [dedicated webpage](#) to provide information to child support customers who have questions about the child support offset for Economic Impact Payments under the CARES Act. Under federal law, these payments are subject to federal offset for persons who owe past-due support.
- The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) announced Florida will pilot a program for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to purchase groceries online with the use of an EBT card. SNAP participants are automatically eligible to participate in this program and do not need to apply. This partnership with federal, state, and local partners will ensure Floridians can access nutritious food while also practicing social distancing and self-quarantining to reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can find more information about this new program [here](#).
- The Department of Children and Families has suspended all SNAP (food assistance) time limits and work requirements during the COVID-19 public health emergency. No one in Florida should be required to work 80

hours in order to get or keep their SNAP benefits for now. Time limits and work requirements info [here](#).

- Governor DeSantis has formed the Re-Open Florida Task Force Executive Committee, which is tasked with the re-opening of Florida's economy. We are expecting the Committee's first report on Friday.
- The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will be providing daily updates on their efforts to address the challenges to Florida's Reemployment Assistance program in response to COVID-19. This includes a new [State Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard](#), which will be updated daily to reflect the total number of claims submitted, verified, processed, and paid.
  - Thus far, 1.6 million claims have been submitted to DEO. As of this morning, only 664,027 have been verified, 170,380 have been processed, and 94,909 have been paid.
- DEO has also crafted a 35-page resource guide, which you can find [here](#), and while it may not address your current concern it may help with any issues that may pop up throughout this process.
- Governor DeSantis has signed Executive Order 20-104, which suspends the biweekly “actively seeking work” reporting requirement by Reemployment Assistance claimants.
- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has received notification that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Florida’s waiver to permit the state to launch a pilot project that will allow families to purchase groceries online with their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. DCF will continue to work closely with the USDA and participating retailers to implement this project by April 21, 2020.
- The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles has issued an [Emergency Order](#) extending all Florida driver licenses, commercial driver licenses and identification cards that expire March 16 through April 30, until May 16, 2020.
- The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) has launched Project VITAL, to distribute tablets to residents of Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing

Homes in an effort to keep families connected and help those living in these facilities combat feelings of loneliness and isolation.

- DOEA is also working with the Local Area Agencies on Aging, State Emergency Personnel, Feeding Florida, the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, and 4 Rivers to create a joint initiative to bring hot meals to Florida's senior citizens. Once this program is launched I will make sure to send all of the details to you.
- The State has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to build a temporary 450-bed hospital in the Miami Beach Convention Center. This hospital is scheduled to open on April 20.
- The Governor has signed a new executive order that will allow small businesses to collect monies from the Federal CARES Act without any state income taxes.
- The State has launched a Community Action Survey. The survey will assess what Floridians are doing to flatten the curve. Visit [www.StrongerThanC19.com](http://www.StrongerThanC19.com) to take the survey today.
- The Florida Department of Education has created a webpage to ensure teachers, students and parents have a one-stop-shop for their educational needs throughout this time of distance learning. This webpage, [www.fldoe.org/em-response](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response) includes free resources including best practices for distance learning, frequently asked questions, and guidance ranging from topics including assessments, IEPs, instructional hours, and many more. It also includes resources in Spanish.
- Governor DeSantis has issued a statewide stay-at-home order, requiring everyone to limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities.

# 30-DAY SAFER-AT-HOME EXECUTIVE ORDER

Effective: April 3rd at 12:00 PM

1

## SAFER AT HOME

- All persons in Florida shall limit leaving home and providing essential services.
- Senior citizens and individuals with underlying health conditions are encouraged to stay at home and take all measures to limit exposure to others.

2

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- All essential services are not affected.
- Businesses and organizations encouraged to provide curbside or drive-through service to the greatest extent possible.
- Individuals are encouraged to work from home where possible.

3

## ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

- Attending religious services conducted outdoors and houses of worship.
- Participating in recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming (while following social distancing guidelines).
- Taking care of pets.
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one.

- Please note, Palm Beach County still requires that all gatherings use social distancing practices and have less than 10 attendants. This rule is in place for religious organizations and the County recommends using other methods such as virtual worship services to follow these regulations.
- Governor DeSantis has ordered a 45-day moratorium on evictions and foreclosures throughout the state.
- Governor DeSantis has directed the Florida Department of Transportation to accelerate certain projects in Miami, Tampa, and Orlando areas by 4 to 6 weeks to help boost the economy.
- The Department of Economic Opportunity at the direction of the Governor has announced that it is waiving the requirement that unemployment applicants must wait a week to receive reemployment assistant benefits. This will be waived until May 8, 2020.
- The Governor has announced a "Safer at Home" policy for South Florida. This policy will remain in place until mid-April.
- All Florida public schools will remain closed through May 1.
- The Governor has issued an executive order allowing certain Florida Retirement System (FRS) employees who have retired to return to the workforce to assist in fighting COVID-19. This would allow law enforcement officers, first responders, emergency management, health and medical professionals, and other critical response personnel to return to work without having their retirement void or benefits suspended.
- Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) is restricting visitor access to its State Veterans' Homes until further notice, with the exception of essential visitors, such as family members of those residents undergoing end-of-life care. FDVA is also temporarily suspending admissions to State Veterans' Homes.
- The state has secured an order of 2,000 rapid COVID-19 tests that will provide results in 45 minutes. They are also in discussions with Abbott Laboratories to secure their rapid test which would provide results in 5-15 minutes.



- New checkpoints are being set up along I-95 and I-10 to screen those individuals who are entering Florida from COVID-19 hotspots.
- Governor DeSantis has ordered that any travelers who arrive in the state from Louisiana must self-isolate for 14 days.
  - National Guard is now stationed at Pam Beach International Airport to help enforce this executive order and the previous EO regarding travelers from the Tri-State area.
- Governor DeSantis has ordered a 14-day moratorium on the operation of vacation rentals.
- Governor DeSantis directed the Department of Revenue to provide flexibility on tax due dates, such as sales tax, to assist those affected by COVID-19.
  - This includes the extension of the payment due date of property taxes to April 15.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife has been ordered to issue an Emergency Order which would enforce social distancing on Florida's Waterways.
- A thousand swabs are being provided to Palm Beach County, to help facilitate more testing.
- The Florida Department of Children and Families has waived work requirements for assistance programs providing food and shelter.
- Governor DeSantis has ordered that anyone traveling to the State of Florida from Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Governor DeSantis and the State Surgeon General have issued a public health advisory to all people over 65 years of age, asking them to stay at home and to take other such measures necessary to limit their risk of exposure.
  - This public health advisory also includes those people with serious underlying medical conditions as described by the CDC.
- The Early Learning Coalition is open and connecting parents who are emergency response personnel and essential-business workers to open child care facilities and early learning centers. Contact them at (561) 514-3300.

- Governor DeSantis has prohibited any unnecessary, non-urgent medical procedures from being performed in order to free up necessary and important medical equipment.
- Please note, the State is currently working to expand the server capacity for the Reemployment Application website. If you are having difficulty applying online, reach out to my office and we will do our best to assist you. This issue is also affecting the Emergency Bridge Loan application, however, you can apply via the [FloridaDisaster site](#).
- Governor DeSantis has suspended statutes that require physical quorums for Local Government meetings to allow for conference calls or e-meetings, instead of in-person meetings.
- Department of Children and Families will be temporarily closing its storefronts and lobbies.
  - You can apply for assistance, check your status, or report changes via phone at (850) 300-4323 or go to [Access Florida's site](#).
- The Price Gouging Hotline is open! If you see that there is any gouging of prices please call 1-866-9NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226) to report it.
- The Florida Department of Transportation has temporarily stopped the collection of cash payments on toll roads.
  - Vehicles without a SunPass will be charged via Toll-by-Plate and receive an invoice in the mail for the cost of their tolls.

### **Federal Updates**

- My friend and our Congresswoman, Lois Frankel, has put together an excellent guide that can help you understand what financial relief you are entitled to during this pandemic! I recommend that everyone reads through [the guide](#) and make sure that you understand what you are entitled to and how to get it.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration South Florida District Office will host virtual office hours to answer questions about the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Limited to 250 callers at one time. Participants may call at any time and are welcome to enter and exit at

will. Callers will be muted upon entry and will be taken in the order they are received. The virtual office hours are 11:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

- Skype: <https://meet.lync.com/sba123/jfhein/DRJCSWGT> [Inks.gd]
- Phone: [\(202\) 765-1264](tel:(202)765-1264); Conference ID - 143765659
- Last week, Congress approved an additional \$320 billion for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP). The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will resume accepting Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan applications from approved lenders on behalf of any eligible borrower. For more information on the Paycheck Protection Program, visit: [sba.gov/paycheckprotection](https://sba.gov/paycheckprotection).
  - Other available SBA Coronavirus Relief Resources for businesses can be found on the SBA website [here](#). The SBA loan applications can be found [here](#).
  - We also encourage you to reach out to your bank or lender for more information on commercial loan opportunities that may be available to you. Visit the [U.S. Treasury website](#) for a list of banks and lenders.
- The Centers for Disease Control has extended the guidelines for social distancing through the end of April.
- The deadline to be Real ID-compliant (star on the upper right-hand corner of your Driver's License) has been delayed by one year to October 1, 2021.
- The CARES Act has been passed by Congress and signed by the President. This package includes benefits for individuals, families, state and local governments, businesses, the healthcare system and much more.
  - You can find a guide to the CARES Act [here](#).
  - If you are interested about how the CARES Act helps business owners here is a [Small Business Owner's Guide to the CARES Act](#) as well as information about the [Small Business Paycheck Protection Program](#).
- Tax Day has been postponed 90 days to, July 15, 2020.

- A new federal testing site is now open to the public and those 65 and older who have symptoms of COVID-19 at the Hard Rock Stadium

### **Restaurant, Bars, and Other Businesses**

Governor DeSantis has ordered that all **restaurants, bars, breweries, and other alcohol or food establishments with seating for more than 10 people close**. This does not apply to delivery, pick-up or take out services provided by these establishments

**Movie theatres, concert halls and auditoriums, bowling alleys, arcades, gyms and fitness studios, and beaches** have been CLOSED in Palm Beach and Broward Counties.

### **Feeding Sites**

- Starting this week, Pollo Tropical restaurants will be treating kids to a free kids meal and bottle of water, between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm at locations throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.
  - The offer is valid at company-owned locations, not franchises
  - The child must be in the car to receive the Kids Meal
  - Drive-thru only
  - One free Kids Classic TropiChop will be given per child under the age of 12
- Beginning this week, School District feeding sites will serve meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays, rather than Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The number of meals distributed each week, however, will not decrease.
  - Beginning Thursday, April 30, the number of food distribution locations will increase to [51 schools across Palm Beach County](#). Meals will be distributed on Thursdays only from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parents or guardians who pick up meals on Thursday will be picking up a kit with two meals for six days totaling 12 meals for

each child. Thursday, there will also be [additional food distributions at select school sites](#).

- Starting on April 27, the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's Summer Food Service Program in partnership with the Palm Beach County Library System will begin Pre-Summer Feeding at select locations throughout the County. The sites will be distributing seven days worth of meals to eligible children. Meal distribution will be available on Mondays or Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or until all meal kits are distributed. The following locations in District 81 will distribute food on Wednesday:
  - Belle Glade Branch Library, 725 NW 4 ST, Belle Glade, 33430
  - Loula V York Branch Library, 525 Bacom Point Rd, Pahokee, 33476
  - Clarence E Anthony Branch Library, 375 SW 2 Ave, South Bay, 33493
- Until further notice, School Food Distributions will be open on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's. Each student will receive two days' worth of meals will be provided on each day, and will include only lunch and dinner. Drivers, please remember, to pop your trunk or roll down a window when you arrive to minimize contact.
- Feeding South Florida sites are providing groceries in a drive-thru style distribution. This list is updated daily and dates, times, and locations may change. If you plan to attend a distribution, please review this calendar the day-of to confirm the schedule. Daily updates can be found

here: [www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19](http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19).

This list is updated daily at [www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19](http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19)  
 If you plan to attend a distribution, please review this calendar  
 Esta lista se actualiza todos los días en [www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19](http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19)  
 Revise el calendario el día de la distribución p

<b>FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA CALENDAR OF</b>			
<b>These sites provide groceries in a "</b>			
<b>Estos sitios proveen alimentos al es</b>			
Site Name	Address	City	St
<b>PALM BEACH</b>			
City of Lake Worth	121 Lucerne Avenue	Lake Worth	FL
United Haitian	2015 Parker Avenue	West Palm Beach	FL
City of Delray	1500 SW 6 Street	Delray Beach	FL
Hope in Action	14055 Okeechobee Boulevard	Loxahatchee	FL
City of Boynton Beach - Christ Fellowship	801 N. Congress Avenue	Boynton Beach	FL
City of Riviera Beach	2409 Avenue H West	Riviera Beach	FL
City of Greenacres	501 Swain Boulevard	Greenacres	FL
West Palm Beach PAL	720 N. Tamarind Avenue	West Palm Beach	FL
Hope in Action East	2341 S. Military Trail	West Palm Beach	FL
City of West Palm Beach	1751 Palm Lakes Boulevard	West Palm Beach	FL
<b>BROWARD</b>			
City of Coral Springs	Coral Square Mall - 9469 W. Atlantic Boulevard	Coral Springs	FL
Mt. Olivet SDA	649 NW 15 Way	Ft. Lauderdale	FL
City of Sunrise	Sunrise at Tennis Club - 9605 West Oakland Park Boulevard	Sunrise	FL
The Pantry of Broward	610 NW 3 Street	Ft. Lauderdale	FL
City of Pembroke Pines	City Center - 601 City Center Way	Pembroke Pines	FL
City of Miramar	Miramar Regional Park - 16801 Miramar Parkway	Miramar	FL
Rayfield	2210 Pierce Street	Hollywood	FL
<b>MIAMI-DADE</b>			
City of Opa-Locka	777 Sharazad Boulevard	Opa-Locka	FL
Brownsville Medical Center	2400 NW 54 Street	Miami	FL
Schekinah, Inc.	12555 NW 17 Avenue	Miami	FL
Centro AFE	868 SE 12 Street	Hialeah	FL
City of Hialeah Gardens	Mater Academy - 7901 NW 103 Street	Hialeah Gardens	FL
Fountain of Life	3505 NW 79 Street	Miami	FL
City of Miami Beach	2100 Collins Avenue	Miami Beach	FL
1st Haitian COG	7140 N. Miami Avenue	Miami	FL

As of 4.14.2020 AM

- The Palm Beach County School Food Distribution sites and rules have been changed. Students will no longer have to be present in order to

receive a meal; a parent or guardian will need to bring the student's school ID, passport, library card or a photo of the adult with the child to receive the meals. Drivers are asked to open their trunks or the window of an unoccupied seat to have food placed in the vehicle to maintain a safe distance.

- There are now 35 sites throughout the county, including:
  - Boca Raton High School
  - Belle Glade Elementary School
  - Benoist Farms Elementary School
  - Congress Middle School
  - Conniston Middle School
  - Forest Park Elementary School
  - Gove Elementary School
  - Greenacres Elementary School
  - Hammock Pointe Elementary
  - Highland Elementary School
  - Hope - Centennial Elementary School
  - Howell Watkins Middle School
  - Indian Pines Elementary School
  - J.C. Mitchell Elementary School
  - Jupiter Elementary School
  - Lake Park Elementary School
  - Lake Worth High School
  - Lantana Middle School
  - Lincoln Elementary School
  - Loxahatchee Groves Elementary
  - Northmore Elementary School
  - Okeeheelee Middle School
  - Osceola Creek Middle School
  - Pahokee Elementary School
  - Palm Beach Lakes High School
  - Palm Springs Community Middle School
  - Pine Jog Elementary School
  - Rolling Green Elementary School

- Roosevelt Elementary School
- Rosenwald Elementary School
- Suncoast High School
- Tradewinds Middle School
- Village Academy
- Wellington High School
- Wynnebrook Elementary School

Commissioner Nikki Fried has also activated the Summer Breakspots, to find a Summer Breakspot near you, you can use their [meal locator site](#).

Boys and Girls Clubs throughout Palm Beach County will be providing lunch and a healthy snack to all children at their seven club locations, Monday-Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

- - Belle Glade Teen Center  
350 SW 10 St, Belle Glade, FL, 33430
  - Boca Raton Club  
300 Newcastle St, Boca Raton, FL, 33487
  - Florence De George Club  
4105 Pinewood Ave, West Palm Beach, FL, 33407
  - Marjorie S Fisher Club  
905 Drexel Rd, West Palm Beach, FL, 33413
  - Max M Fisher Club  
221 W 13 St, Riviera Beach, FL, 33404
  - Delray Beach Club  
1451 SW 7 St, Delray Beach, FL, 33444
  - Neil S Hirsch Club  
1080 Wellington Trace, Wellington, FL, 33414
- There will be a limited number of student grab and go food sites at the following schools during Spring Break (March 23 to March 27). See



below for the location nearest you:

Site Number	Site Name
2751	Benoist Farms Elementary School
1581	Congress Middle School
0541	Conniston Middle School
0831	Forest Park Elementary School
1241	Gove Elementary School
0631	Greenacres Elementary School
0671	Highland Elementary School
0012	Hope - Centennial Elementary School
1861	Indian Pines Elementary School
0071	Jupiter Elementary School
0141	Lake Park Elementary School
0691	Lake Worth High School
0761	Lantana Middle School
0211	Lincoln Elementary School
1901	Loxahatchee Groves Elementary
0271	Northmore Elementary School
2151	Okeeheelee Middle School
2821	Osceola Creek Middle School
1101	Pahokee Elementary School
1851	Palm Beach Lakes High School
0611	Palm Springs Community Middle School
0051	Pine Jog Elementary School
0341	Roosevelt Elementary School
1321	Rosenwald Elementary School
1681	Spanish River High School
0151	Suncoast High School
2781	Tradewinds Middle School
1701	Wellington Landings Middle School
1391	Wynnebrook Elementary School
<b>Total Feeding Sites</b>	<b>29</b>

## Updates from the School District of Palm Beach County

- The Palm Beach County School District has announced the following changes to Summer Programs:
  - All District Summer Camps are canceled
  - ESY (Extended School Year) will take place virtually, accommodations will be provided to the best of the District's ability.
  - Credit and course-recovery options will be provided virtually.
  - Third grade Summer Reading Academy is canceled.
  - Beginning English Language Learners (ELL) students will continue with academic opportunities and resources will be mailed to their homes.
  - Enrichment programs for children of migrant workers will also be offered by virtual instruction, along with materials mailed to their homes.
  - Additional academic opportunities will be offered through individual elementary schools.
- The College Board has announced that they are planning on providing weekend SAT administrations every month through the end of the calendar year, beginning in August to make up for those examinations that were cancelled due to COVID-19. Students will be able to register for these exams beginning in May.
- The School District remains hopeful that in-person celebrations for graduates may be possible at a later time when the threat posed by COVID-19 is no longer a risk. However, the District is planning on conducting virtual graduations for each school, ceremonies will begin May 26 and run through June 5. You can visit [palmbeachschools.org/graduation2020](https://palmbeachschools.org/graduation2020) to see the graduation schedule, ways to watch the graduations, and information about platforms that include virtual graduations watch parties.
- Public and Private Schools will remain closed throughout the rest of the school year. Students will continue to participate in distance learning for

the rest of the 2019-2020 school year (May 29, 2020 is the last day of school in Palm Beach County).

- Beginning on March 25, Florida students will have access to free, live Advanced Placement (AP) review lessons. The College Board, who administers the examinations, is also working on developing a secure online exam for each course so that the students can still take their AP Exams.
- The School District of Palm Beach County has a dedicated Coronavirus website at [PalmBeachSchools.org/Coronavirus](https://PalmBeachSchools.org/Coronavirus). The School District also has a Coronavirus hotline available to answer school-related questions. Representatives are available to answer questions in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole.
  - The hotline is open Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 4 PM at 561.969.5840.
- The District has announced that they are planning on beginning remote learning as schools will be closed through April 15. They understand that not all families will have access to the technology needed to make this happen, so the District is asking families to fill out their Technology Survey so that they can help those families. If you have not yet completed this form, you can find it [here](#). Please submit the survey as soon as possible.

### **University Updates**

- Florida Atlantic University has extended remote instruction until further notice. All students who are able to return home should return home and commencement ceremonies have been canceled.

### **Help for Seniors**

- Below is the list of long term care facilities in Palm Beach County where residents or staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19. I was

disappointed to learn of this list on Saturday evening. To me, there are a lot more than the 100 facilities we were originally told the positive cases were limited to. For the full list, click [here](#).

1 AAA Assisted Living At Wellington
Abbey Delray Health Center
Addington Place At Wellington Green
Allegro
Arbor Oaks At Greenacres
Avante At Lake Worth, Inc.
Barrington Terrace At Boynton Beach
Boulevard Rehabilitation Center
Boynton Beach Rehabilitation Center
Brighton Gardens Of Boca Raton
Brookdale West Boynton Beach
Carlisle Palm Beach, The
Colonial Assisted Living At Boynton Beach, Fl
Cresthaven
Encore At Boca Raton Rehabilitation And Nursing Center, LLC, The
Fountainview
Gardens Court, The
Hamlin Place Of Boynton Beach
Heartland Health Care And Rehabilitation Center Of Boca Raton
Heartland Health Care Center - Boynton Beach
Manorcare Health Services

o

Manorcare Health Services - Boynton Beach
Medicana Nursing And Rehab Center
Morselife Health System
North Lake Care Center
Palm Garden Of West Palm Beach
Regents Park Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
Rehabilitation Center Of The Palm Beaches The
Renaissance Health And Rehabilitation
Sonata Boca Raton
Sonata Boynton Beach
Sonata Delray Beach
Stratford Court Of Boca Raton
Terraces Of Lake Worth Care Center
The Meridian At Boca Raton
Vi At Lakeside Village
Wood Lake Health And Rehabilitation Center



Federal, State, and Local officials understand that our seniors are at risk. This is why you can reach out to the Elder Helpline in your county if you are in need of some assistance with grocery shopping or other tasks. Below is a listing of the Telephone Numbers for each County's Elder Helpline.

<b>Alachua</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Hamilton</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Nassau</b> 888-242-4464
<b>Baker</b> 888-242-4464	<b>Hardee</b> 800-336-2226	<b>Okaloosa</b> 850-494-7100
<b>Bay</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Hendry</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Okeechobee</b> 866-684-5885
<b>Bradford</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Hernando</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Orange</b> 407-514-0019
<b>Brevard</b> 407-514-0019	<b>Highlands</b> 800-336-2226	<b>Osceola</b> 407-514-0019
<b>Broward</b> 954-745-9779	<b>Hillsborough</b> 800-336-2226	<b>Palm Beach</b> 561-214-8600
<b>Calhoun</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Holmes</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Pasco</b> <i>In-state</i> 800-861-811 <i>Out-of-state</i> 727-217-811
<b>Charlotte</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Indian River</b> 866-684-5885	<b>Pinellas</b> 727-217-8111
<b>Citrus</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Jackson</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Polk</b> 800-336-2226
<b>Clay</b> 888-242-4464	<b>Jefferson</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Putnam</b> 800-262-2243
<b>Collier</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Lafayette</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Santa Rosa</b> 850-494-7100
<b>Columbia</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Lake</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Sarasota</b> 239-652-6901
<b>DeSoto</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Lee</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Seminole</b> 407-514-0019
<b>Dixie</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Leon</b> 866-467-4624	<b>St. Johns</b> 888-242-4464
<b>Duval</b> 888-242-4464	<b>Levy</b> 800-262-2243	<b>St. Lucie</b> 866-684-5885
<b>Escambia</b> 850-494-7100	<b>Liberty</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Sumter</b> 800-262-2243
<b>Flagler</b> 888-242-4464	<b>Madison</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Suwannee</b> 800-262-2243
<b>Franklin</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Manatee</b> 800-336-2226	<b>Taylor</b> 866-467-4624
<b>Gadsden</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Marion</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Union</b> 800-262-2243
<b>Gilchrist</b> 800-262-2243	<b>Martin</b> 866-684-5885	<b>Volusia</b> 888-242-4464
<b>Glades</b> 239-652-6901	<b>Miami-Dade</b> 305-670-4357	<b>Wakulla</b> 866-467-4624
<b>Gulf</b> 866-467-4624	<b>Monroe</b> 305-670-4357	<b>Walton</b> 850-494-7100
		<b>Washington</b> 866-467-4624

## **Small Business Loans**

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program has been activated to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program is managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and provides short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19.

The application period is open and will remain open through May 8, 2020. Interested businesses can visit the [Bridge Loan site](#) for more information.

## **Reemployment Assistance**

- CareerSource of Palm Beach county has launched the '*Help Is Here*' Web Portal to Help Job Seekers, Employers Access Recovery Assistance. As businesses across our region reopen, CareerSource Palm Beach County is launching a new '*Help Is Here*' web portal to assist job seekers and employers in their efforts to access assistance needed for recovery.
  - *Help Is Here* is CareerSource Palm Beach County's focused public and business outreach effort to:
    - Connect job seekers and businesses to critical resources for local, personalized help
    - Develop innovative solutions to generate job recovery/retention and business continuity, driving economic recovery
    - Provide links to state and federal assistance programs
  - Many businesses are ramping up to rehire staff as well as hire new candidates. The CareerSource Business Services staff connects employers with qualified candidates – at no cost. They can be contacted at [www.careersourcepbc.com](http://www.careersourcepbc.com) [careersourcepbc.com] or call 561.340.1060 and select option 3. CareerSource also is scheduling virtual hiring events. Business continuity is being

supported through grants that help employers train and upskill employees.

- Job seekers can gain a competitive edge in searching for a new career by accessing *online virtual job readiness workshops*. There is no cost to view any of the workshops covering key skills needed when looking to get hired in today's labor market:
  - Creating a professional resume and cover letter
  - Building a LinkedIn profile and using social media in your job search
  - Handling online job applications
  - Conducting an effective job search and networking campaign
  - Preparing for job interviews
  - Online job, industry and employer research
  - Following up after a job interview
- **On Wednesday, May 13, CONNECT will be beginning its nightly maintenance at 5:50 pm, instead of 8:00 pm.** The site will remain down until 8:00 am on Thursday, May 14, however, those wishing to submit **NEW CLAIMS** can still access the site to submit a new claim.
- To comply with federal law, weeks beginning **May 10, 2020**, claimants will be required to return to the CONNECT system every two weeks to request their benefits or "claim their weeks." In doing so, claimants will confirm that they are still unemployed and acknowledge that they are able and available for work should it be offered. For more information, click [here](#).
  - Although claimants will have to confirm their unemployment every two weeks, claimants will not be required to complete the work search and work registration requirements. This waiver will remain in place until May 30, 2020.
- In a recent press release, DEO announced that claimants can now request to modify their claim filing effective date. Those who are interested in modifying their effective date should visit [www.FloridaJobs.org](http://www.FloridaJobs.org) and select the link "Request to Modify Claim (Application) Filing Effective Date. The form will allow you to modify the



effective (or start date) of your benefits, as far back as March 9 for State Reemployment Benefits, or March 29 for Federal Unemployment Benefits.

- Please note, Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) checks, \$600 benefit through the CARES Act, will only be distributed from March 29 and will only run as long as you have State Reemployment Benefits. For example, if you move your State Reemployment Benefit effective date to March 16, you would only receive 12 weeks of PUC checks, as the CARES Act went into effect on March 29.
- Over the weekend DEO announced that the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which provides unemployment benefits to those that may not otherwise be eligible under Florida's state Reemployment Assistance program, including independent contractors and individuals who are self-employed, is now open. Unemployed Floridians who have not yet completed an application for any benefit can apply at [www.FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication) and will be considered for all existing programs, including PUA.
  - If you aren't sure whether you should apply for PUA check out this handy [PUA Flowchart](#) crafted by DEO. You can also consult this [FAQ](#) on PUA if you want to learn more about the program.
  - If you are self-employed, an independent contractor, or a gig worker and were deemed ineligible but applied prior to April 4, 2020, you will have to reapply for benefits under PUA.
  - For those who applied after April 5, 2020 and have been deemed ineligible for state reemployment assistance benefits, you should be receiving additional information from DEO.
- In an effort to process more payments over the weekend, DEO's CONNECT Unemployment website will be down for maintenance. **The website will reopen at 8:00 am on Monday, April 27.**
- I wanted to provide the most up-to-date information I have in applying for unemployment assistance as well as the tips we have learned. My office has compiled a great tip sheet, you can find it [here](#).

- DEO will be conducting nightly maintenance to the unemployment CONNECT system to help with processing claims. CONNECT will be unavailable from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. daily. Individuals who need to certify their weeks should sign-on to CONNECT between 8 a.m. and 7:59 p.m. during their scheduled reporting time to ensure their claims are processed on time. Importantly, this will not affect individuals that are filing a new claim. Individuals can file a new claim 24 hours a day, seven days per week.
- DEO has created a paper application as an additional avenue to start the application process. You can find it [here](#). I would suggest filling out the paper application while still trying electronic or phone applications. This way you can cover all of the bases. If you are unable to print your own copy, you can pick up a copy of the application at the following locations:
  - Outside of my Boca Raton office, 8177 Glades Road, Suite 209, Boca Raton, 33428
  - Certain FedEx Locations throughout the county ([see list](#))
    - These locations will also mail the completed applications for free
  - Outside of certain Palm Beach County Library locations ([see list](#))
- Here are some updates on what DEO is doing to improve access to Reemployment Assistance, however, please note there will likely still be a significant backlog:
  - Waiving the waiting week, work search, and work registration requirements.
  - Updating the capability of the online application system, by installing 72 new servers, which will allow the system to handle up to 120,000 simultaneous claims at once.
    - Later this week an additional 10 servers will be installed.
  - Hiring more than 500 new Reemployment Assistant Representatives at the call centers, as well as drafting other state employees to work through the claims and cut down on wait times.
- DEO has also created a mobile-friendly website for you to submit your application online. Once this application is completed and processed, you should be hearing back from DEO via phone or email to confirm the final

details. You can apply through that site [here](#), under the Reemployment Assistance section you will find “Apply Now” and that will launch the application.

- DEO has also crafted an [FAQ](#), that can hopefully address some of your questions, however, please contact me if you have any questions throughout the application process, and I will do my best to get you an answer.
- The Department of Economic Opportunity has created a paper application for unemployment claims. You can find the application and instructions [here](#).
  - I also want to let you know that I am working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to make unemployment payments retroactive. There are so many Floridians who are counting on unemployment benefits and the way things stand benefits would only be issued once the application has been submitted.
- I know that many of you are having difficulty with the unemployment application. I along with other leaders have been advocating for the Governor to take action and help make the DEO system more efficient, and I am glad to report that over the weekend some improvements have been made.
  - There have been 72 new servers added to the DEO system this weekend, which will allow for up to 120,000 unique users. A redundancy system has also been added that should help stop the system from being overwhelmed.
  - 250 new phone service representatives started today and 500 additional representatives are being trained today. More than 2,000 state employees from other areas are being drafted to help deal with the claims.
  - There is still expected to be significant delays as they continue to hire and improve the system.
- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will be accepting claims for Reemployment Assistance for those employees who have been negatively impacted as a result of the mitigation efforts in Florida to

stop the spread of COVID-19. Individuals who may be eligible for Reemployment Assistance may include:

- Those who are quarantined by a medical professional or government agency
- Those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period of time by their employer due to COVID-19 concerns
- Or, those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19
- If you fall into one of these categories you submit your claim via the [CONNECT system](#), or if you need assistance filing a claim you can call 1(800) 681-8102.

### **County Updates**

- Applications for the CARES Restart Business Grants Program are expected to launch on Friday, May 22 at 8:00 am.
  - The program guidelines, including eligibility criteria, are currently posted [here](#). The Board of County Commissioners has set aside \$60 million for this purpose and has given approval for individual grants up to \$25,000 to help Palm Beach County businesses forced to close or limit operations and are now planning to “restart” based on the county’s phased opening process. Required documents will include a fully executed application from the county’s online portal, certifications, affirmations and acknowledgments, tax returns, payroll reports, an active Palm Beach County Business Tax Receipt, and an active registration on SunBiz. These documents will be required to be uploaded into the system by the applicant.
- At this time, all Library locations are still closed to the public. However, the Palm Beach County Library System is offering a walk-up holds pick-up service, as well as a variety of online services. To access online services, please visit [www.pbclibrary.org/virtual-library](http://www.pbclibrary.org/virtual-library). The Palm Beach

County Library System has many resources available to help students, parents, and job seekers during this time.

- The walk-up service will work as follows:
  - Place hold requests by phone, library app or through the library catalog at [www.pbclibrary.org](http://www.pbclibrary.org).
  - Wait for library staff to contact you letting you know your hold is ready to pick up.
  - When you arrive at the library, call the branch phone number listed on a sign in front of the building.
  - After verification, a staff member will check the item(s) out to your account and place the item(s) on a table or cart immediately outside the front entrance.
  - Remain at least 6 feet away from the front entrance behind a designated marker until the staff member closes the doors. Once the staff member is back inside, please pick up your item(s).
- The Tax Collector's Office will be resuming in-person service by APPOINTMENT ONLY on June 1. The agency's website at [www.pbctax.com](http://www.pbctax.com) offers the convenience of completing common transactions online without the need to visit a tax collector office. Many transactions can also be completed by mail. The Tax Collector's Office located at 301 N. Olive Avenue in **West Palm Beach** **remains closed** until further notice. All other offices remain open.
- The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office and five service centers are open Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. Online business is encouraged rather than an in-person visit. Log onto the website: [www.pbcgov.org/PAPA](http://www.pbcgov.org/PAPA) call: (561) 355-2866 or email at [PAO@pbctax.com](mailto:PAO@pbctax.com).
- Palm Tran has resumed their normal schedules, please note, all passengers are required to have a mask covering their nose and mouth while riding and only 20 passengers are allowed on board for fixed-route buses. Palm Tran Connection is operating, for essential trips only.
- The Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County will resume public services at all locations beginning Monday, May 11 at 8:00 am. For the

safety of the customers and employees, the Clerk and Comptroller has installed plexiglass shields in customer service areas, posted reminders for social distancing, and is limiting the number of customers allowed in the lobbies.

- Customers visiting the offices must:
  - Wear a face covering
  - Maintain 6 feet distance from others
  - Enter lobbies only if you have direct business with the office
- Please note that some services will be conducted by appointment only, You can contact each office location for more details
  - Main Courthouse, West Palm Beach: (561) 355-4489
  - Midwestern Communities Service Center, Royal Palm Beach (temporarily closed Fridays): (561) 784-1270
  - North County Courthouse, Palm Beach Gardens: (561) 624-6650
  - South County Courthouse, Delray Beach: (561) 274-1557
  - West County Courthouse, Belle Glade: (561) 992-1423
- The Tax Collector has reopened additional offices for clients who cannot complete their transactions online or by mail will be admitted for services. Clients must wear a face mask or face covering at all times and must follow social distancing protocols. For more information, call the Tax Collector's Office at 561-355-2264. The following offices are open and taking appointments:
  - Delray Beach, 501 S Congress Ave, Delray Beach
  - Belle Glade, 2976 State Road 15, Belle Glade
  - Central Palm Beach, 4215 S Military Trail, Greenacres
  - Northeast County Courthouse, 3188 PGA Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens
  - Royal Palm Beach, 200 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach
- Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has signed Emergency Order #5 which sets rules and regulations for reopening recreational facilities throughout the county. Starting tomorrow the following rules will go into effect, though you should check with your local community to check their re-opening timeline:

- Recreational Boating will be allowed but there are specific capacities for each vessel depending on the size of the vessel.
  - Beaching, landings, anchoring, or mooring of vessels on sandbars, islands, and open shorelines will be prohibited.
  - Charter boats, drift fishing and dive boats, marinas, docks, ramps, etc will be allowed to operate in adherence with CDC and county guidelines.
- Golf courses will be opened and there will be rules for the courses themselves, such as play limited to walking and/or single-rider carts only.
- Tennis courts and community pools will be open for limited use at both private and public facilities.
- Parks and natural areas will be open sunrise to sunset for one-way walking, running, biking, fishing, kayaking, etc while practicing social distancing. Picnic pavilions will remain closed and basketball courts are for individual practice only.
- Beaches will remain CLOSED.
- The Tax Collector's office at 501 South Congress Avenue in Delray Beach has re-opened to help Palm Beach County Residents with Driver's License appointments. The Delray office will operate with a reduced staff Monday through Friday from 8:15 am to 4:20 pm by [APPOINTMENT ONLY](#).
  - Clients must wear their own face mask or face covering for service and social distancing protocols will be followed.
  - Clients should also note:
    - Clients will not allowed to sit in the lobby to wait for their appointment, please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before their scheduled appointment
    - Only the individual with the scheduled appointment will be admitted into the office, friends and family will not be admitted to the office.
    - The agency will not supply face masks or hand sanitizer to the public.

- Contactless payment methods such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Samsung Pay are encouraged.
- [Peggy's Pantry](#) assists families located in Palm Beach County to feed their pets. They **also** offer referrals for low-cost vet care and spay/neuter surgeries for pet owners. Our goal is to keep families and their pets together and out of the shelter.
  - They are also in need of donations for Local Pet Food Banks that are running desperately low on resources and donations. Items most need dry cat food (no open bags), dry dog food (no open bags), canned adult cat food and canned kitten food, canned adult dog food and cat litter.
    - Items can be ordered online and shipped directly to the food bank of your choice, or dropped off at their location. To donate or to receive help, reach out to one of the pet food banks by clicking [here](#).
- Discover The Palm Beaches (DTPB), has opened a virtual help desk for essential lodgers to ask questions as they navigate hotel resources and special offers. Available by phone and email, the help desk complements the comprehensive Hotel Status List, special hotel offers and other discounts published on the DTPB website. Essential lodgers range from healthcare professionals and first responders to displaced residents and visitors. The help desk can be reached by email at [sales@thepalmbeaches.com](mailto:sales@thepalmbeaches.com).
- The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, in partnership with Palm Beach County, local chambers of commerce, and municipalities, is launching [www.BizHelpPBC.com](http://www.BizHelpPBC.com) to help companies struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic. This website will provide weekly news updates, resources, and will feature a 2 pm Town Hall call every Friday.
- Individuals and families experiencing economic hardship related to COVID-19 because of loss of employment, or sickness can apply for assistance through the Community Services Department. Residents who are eligible can access emergency rental and utility assistance online by visiting the website or by calling the following phone numbers:



- Online application for all services including rent and utilities: [www.pbcgov.com/OSCARSS](http://www.pbcgov.com/OSCARSS)
- Phone number for rent: [561-904-7900](tel:561-904-7900)
- Phone number for utilities: [561-355-4792](tel:561-355-4792)
- Phone number for seniors EHEAP: [561-355-4746](tel:561-355-4746)
- For now, the courts have temporarily suspended hearings on evictions, and a moratorium has been placed on utility shutoffs. However, residents are encouraged to act now to ensure they have the ability to budget responsibly and make sure rent/mortgage and utilities are paid. Please visit the website for more information about how to prepare and budget. [www.pbcgov.com/communityservices](http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices)
- Palm Beach County Youth Services is providing FREE Telemental Health Services to the residents of Palm Beach County. For more information about Telemental Health and other services provided by Palm Beach County Youth Services, please visit their [website](#).
  - Education & Training Center – psychologists and doctoral trainees offer family therapy, individual therapy, and parent training services through Zoom Video Telemental Health. Bilingual therapists (Spanish & Creole) are available. To schedule an intake appointment, please call 561-233-4460. The Education & Training Center also provides free weekly remote trainings on a variety of mental health topic
  - Highridge Family Center – currently accepting applications for future residents. Intake appointments and weekly family counseling sessions, in addition to virtual individual therapy and parental support, are ongoing via Telemental Health. To schedule an appointment, please call 561-625-2540.
  - Family Violence Intervention (FVIP) – court diversion program is accepting cases referred from the State Attorney’s Office. FVIP team of master and bachelor-level staff provide case management, case planning, referral advocacy and mediation telehealth services via Zoom Video.

- Youth and Family Counseling (YFC) – currently providing assessments, family and individual therapy, parent education and school-based behavioral health services via Zoom Video. Telemental Health services are offered in English, Spanish, French, and Creole. To schedule an appointment, please call (561) 242-5714
- The Area Agency on Aging announced today a COVID-19 expansion to its Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC Helpline). Seniors 60+ are encouraged to call the ADRC Helpline for assistance with food, food stamps, COVID 19 information such as testing sites, and questions on Medicare or Medicaid. Call the ADRC Helpline at 1(866) 684-5885. Specially trained counselors are available to help in English, Spanish or Creole Monday through Friday 8:00 – 5:00.
- Palm Tran is limiting the number of people allowed to ride on buses to no more than 15 passengers, please look to the head sign which may indicate if the bus is full. If the bus is full you will need to wait for the next bus on the route, you can call customer service at (561) 841-4287 for the arrival time of the next scheduled bus.
- Effective this week, Palm Tran's Western Community Bus Service, Go Glades, will be implementing a change to its daily service. Routes 1, 2, 3, and 4 will no longer be serviced. You will have to book a trip to use Go Glades by calling (561) 649-9838.
- The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has issued an Emergency Order requiring that masks or facial coverings be worn whenever social distancing is not possible, for example, when at grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies, construction sites, and/or public transit vehicles. It is also suggested that any person present in any public place in Palm Beach County to wear facial coverings as well.
- The Board of County Commissioners meets tomorrow. The Board is offering additional ways to submit public comments for Tuesday's meeting. In addition to in-person public comment, members of the public are also able to submit their comments via an online form here: [Submit Public Comment](#).

- All comments must be submitted prior to the agenda item starting. Please refer to the [latest agenda](#) for the item number you'd like to comment on and include that in the form when submitting.
- Sheriff Bradshaw has established a program to assist those folks in the South County area who are unable to get out of their homes to go to the grocery store or pharmacy. Sheriff's Office Volunteers are ready to pick up PREPAID groceries and prescriptions and bring them to your home.
  - Call or email between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm for information or to advise that you have placed an order, Krysti Nast, (561) 688-3918, [nastk@pbsso.org](mailto:nastk@pbsso.org) or Nephateri Burrell, (561) 681-7241, [burrelln@pbsso.org](mailto:burrelln@pbsso.org).
- Residents concerned with rent assistance may contact the Palm Beach County Human Services Eviction Prevention Program. Call 561-904-7900 or apply online at [www.pbcgov.org/oscarss](http://www.pbcgov.org/oscarss).
- If anyone has a complaint about a medical office or asking about procedures to contact the states Medical Quality Assurance office at 850-245-4339
- The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County has launched a new program offering a scholarship for child care for parents working as first responders, emergency personnel, and other essential employees during this crisis.
  - To learn more about this program you can contact the ELC's family resource line, (561) 514-3300.
- Solid Waste Authority will close five Home Chemical and Recycling Centers after the close of business on Monday, March 30. The two remaining Home Chemical and Recycling Centers in West Palm Beach and Western Delray Beach will remain open for CRUCIAL customer needs only.
- SWA's customer convenience drop-off center at the landfill site is closed. Residents with small haulers of waste are being diverted directly to the landfill.
- The Office of Equal Business Opportunity will no longer be accepting in-person client appointments or walk-ins. Certification and recertification documents can still be uploaded to the [Vendor Self-Service Portal](#) or

mailed directly to the office. If you have questions or need additional information please call (561) 616-6840.

- The Drug Abuse Foundation has halted admissions to four of its programs for 15 days. The Emergency Receiving Center remains open. For more information call (561) 278-0000
- All golf courses and county parks are now **CLOSED**.
- Thursday's Board of County Commissioners Meeting will be allowing for Public Comments to be submitted via email. [Public Comment Cards](#) will need to be submitted to Vismary Dorta, [VDorta@pbcgov.org](mailto:VDorta@pbcgov.org), by no later than 5:00 pm on March 25.
- CareerSource PBC is closing its offices to the public until further notice. They will continue to provide virtual services online and by phone for job seekers and employers at this critical time
- The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has ordered that all nonessential retail and commercial businesses close, with exception to perform minimum basic operations, or those activities necessary to maintain the business (payroll, security, equipment preservation, etc.).
  - This order does provide exemptions for grocery stores, pharmacies, agricultural businesses, doctor's offices, media services, gas stations, banks, and other essential businesses.
- County Regional Parks and Golf Courses remain open, however, boat ramps and marinas will be closed to recreational boating throughout the county.
- Sheriff Bradshaw has warned citizens that there are people walking door to door claiming to be with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) offering COVID-19 tests for \$100. This is NOT a service that is being provided by the CDC; please contact the Sheriff's office if someone comes by your home attempting to provide this service.
- Effective March 24, the Clerk and Comptroller is suspending all in-person, non-essential services.
  - Certain services will be conducted by appointment only and the Clerk and Comptroller will still serve customers by phone (561) 355-2996. For more information visit the Clerks [website](#).

- The Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's office will be closed starting March 23 to public walk-in traffic. Offices will be fully staffed and continue to provide services via phone (561-355-3230), email ([myexemption@pbcgov.org](mailto:myexemption@pbcgov.org)), and Property Appraiser Public Access [website](#).
- Starting tomorrow, March 24, Palm Tran is suspending bus pass sales; buses will be operating fare free in order to promote social distancing between the drivers and passengers.
- Palm Beach County Libraries will be closed starting 3/20/20
- Tax Collector Centers will be closed on March 20 and March 23 in preparation for operational changes. Offices will re-open to serve the public online, by mail, email, and phone, in-person services are suspended until further notice.
- Congregate meal program administered by the Division of Senior Services will discontinue at the close of business, Thursday, March 19. Participants will receive a 2-week supply of shelf-stable meals to take home with them.
  - Those registered seniors can pick up their next two week supply at the senior center closest to them. There will be other options for those who are unable to drive or rely on public transportation.
- Senior centers will close on Friday with the exception of the Adult Day Care program at North County and Mid-County centers.
- The Highridge Family Center operated by the Youth Services Department has closed in concurrence with school closures. The children and their families are being managed telephonically.
- The Parks Department will be updating existing Facility/Activity Status Charts to reflect the following:
  - Indoor Facilities – Closure of the indoor spaces of Nature Centers, Recreation Centers, Gyms, Museums, Restaurants and Cafes (takeout or delivery food service only).
  - Outdoor Areas – Cancellation of all sports team use of sports fields (fields only available for small group open play), closure of all group pavilions, playgrounds, fitness zones, splash pads, BMX track, pools, and waterparks.

- General park areas and open space, beaches, trails, golf courses, campgrounds, tennis courts, and pickleball courts will remain open. Basketball courts closed.
- Public Safety's Victim Services Department has implemented the provision of call-in for therapy appointments when appropriate. In-person assistance to sexual assault/domestic violence victims will continue.
- The Animal Care and Control division partners with various agencies to help move animals through the shelter. Agencies are putting certain protective actions in place that are/will affect these arrangements. To address the impact, Animal Care and Control are recommending the service modifications effective March 23, to include:
  - Suspending spay/neuter services for the public until further notice.
  - Suspending owner surrenders except for evictions, death of owner, or domestic violence cases.

### **Other Updates and Important Information**

- The Boca Raton Town Center and the Boynton Beach Malls have announced they will reopen on Wednesday, May 13th.
  - The hours for both are 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday, and 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sundays until further notice.
  - The Boynton Beach Mall is offering a special on May 13th from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm, serving first responders and healthcare workers with a complimentary to-go lunch in the Food Court.
- Lion Country Safari has re-opened its Drive-Thru Safari!
  - Tickets MUST be pre-purchased for a no-contact entry here <https://bit.ly/3ftzpY3> \*If you are an Annual Passholder, you do not need to purchase admission.\*
  - Here are some details regarding the re-opening of the drive-thru safari:
    - Admission is reduced for \$17 per person, plus taxes and fees. Guests who would prefer not to present their tickets

for scanning can provide their name upon arrival and we can look up their order.

- Ticket sales are limited each day but will also be honoring Annual Passes and ticketholders.
  - The preserve will be open 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, with the last car admitted at 4:30 PM.
  - Guests must remain in their vehicles with doors and windows closed at all times. The walk-through adventure park is closed until further notice.
- JFS has started a new program, Shop and Share, for those in Boca Raton and Delray Beach who need assistance shopping for their groceries. For more information about the program please reach out to JFS, (561) 852-3333. This program is available to JFS clients and those who are not current JFS clients. You can find more information about the program [here](#).
  - FPL has announced that they are issuing a one-time decrease of approximately 25% for the typical residential customer bills, beginning on May 1. They hope that this one-time decrease will accelerate savings to customers during the COVID-19 crisis, rather than spreading out the decreases over the remainder of the year.
  - Apple has launched a [COVID-19 screening site](#) in collaboration with FEMA, the CDC, and the White House. With this screening tool you can answer a series of questions and you will receive some advice about what you should do next.
  - Effective Saturday, March 28, Tri-Rail trains will suspend fares and operate on a modified schedule, see their [website](#) for more information.
  - Brightline has suspended its train service until further notice.
  - Baptist Hospital has launched its Baptist Health Care on Demand platform, which allows you to speak to a doctor and get some guidance and/or peace of mind without having to rush to a doctor's office or hospital. Visit their [site](#) and use the code CARE19 for a free visit.
  - Bethesda Hospital is conducting a Blood Drive at both of their locations! If you are able to donate blood consider attending one of their blood



drives. Each person who donates blood will receive a free OneBlood Water Bottle, \$20 eGift Card, and a Wellness Check.

- Bethesda Hospital East, March 24, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Bethesda Hospital West, March 26, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Boca Helping Hands is looking for volunteers and donations for their food pantry! If you have a little extra food at home or you know of a restaurant that has a surplus of food, please contact Boca Helping Hands (561-417-0913) so that they can serve those less fortunate.
- VolunteerFlorida is a great organization that connects Floridians to non-profits and other organizations in need of volunteers. They are still active and have great ideas for how you can safely volunteer during this time.

## COVID-19: HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are plenty of ways for Floridians to safely help out while following guidance on #COVID19. Here are some options for getting involved.



Donate to Your  
Local Food Bank

Perform Wellness  
Checks



Donate Blood



Explore Different Volunteer Opportunities

Explore different volunteer opportunities available in your area on Volunteer Connect, Florida's official volunteer opportunity website.  
[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)



# HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epl-wln](http://who.int/epl-wln)

## Do's →



Wash your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored-side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

## Don'ts →



Do not use a ripped or damp mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not re-use the mask

**Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.**

EPI-WIN

World Health Organization

Great tips for wearing a mask safely!



# COVID-19

## General Prevention

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov • [tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention](https://tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention)

Protect yourself from all infectious diseases by using these precautions.



**Stay home when you are sick**



**Avoid contact with people who are sick**



**Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals**



**Wash hands often with soap and water – 20 seconds or longer**



**Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry your hands**



**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces**



**Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing**



**Clean and disinfect “high touch” surfaces often**



**Call before visiting your doctor**

**Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day.**

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tables, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Great tips for protecting yourself from infectious diseases.



# Social Distancing for Infectious Disease

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

**Social distancing measures are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases. Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings and canceling events.**

## Protect yourself and your community.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you're sick.



## Change your daily habits.

Avoid shopping at peak hours and take advantage of delivery or pick-up services with retailers.



## Work with your employer.

Cooperate with leadership to change company practices, set up flexible shift plans, have employees telecommute, and cancel any large meetings or conferences.



## Look for communications from universities and colleges:

Regarding suspending classes, going to web-based learning and canceling all large campus meetings and gatherings.



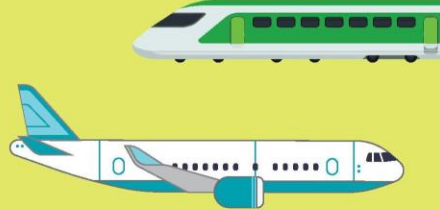
## Keep at least six feet between you and other people.

Avoid shaking hands as a social greeting.



## Avoid public transit if possible.

Don't travel to areas with active outbreaks.



## Avoid crowded places.

Sporting events, community festivals, and concerts



## Learn more:

[tinyurl.com/CDCgatherings](https://tinyurl.com/CDCgatherings)

[tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention](https://tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention)

Social distancing 101!



---

**Contact my office:**

Boca Raton Office

8177 Glades Road, Suite 209  
Boca Raton, Florida 33434  
(561) 470-2086

Belle Glade Office

110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
Belle Glade Florida 333430  
(561) 829-1459

Tallahassee Office

1302 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 717-5081

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [Robert.Rease@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Robert.Rease@myfloridahouse.gov)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81 · 8177 Glades Rd Ste 209 · Boca Raton, FL 33434-4022 · USA

