



April 3, 2020

Governor DeSantis and Pinellas County Order All Non-Essential Business and Activities Halted

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – Responding to Governor Ron DeSantis' statewide "Stay-at-Home" order aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners on Thursday issued an order temporarily closing all non-essential businesses, and giving the County Administrator authority to order businesses that do not follow CDC guidelines for social distancing to close.

The Board renewed the Local State of Emergency declaration for another 7 days, along with the County's previous orders pursuant to it. This means the closure of public beaches and beach parking areas is extended through April 10. During the meeting, the Board also gave Chair Pat Gerard and County Administrator Barry A. Burton the ability to continue extending the local state of emergency and associated orders where necessary without having to convene an emergency BCC meeting. The County and state orders went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday and will be in effect as long as there is a declared Local State of Emergency.

"We all see the numbers increase and we all know the best way to slow or hopefully reverse that trend is to self-isolate as much as possible," said Madeira Beach City Manager Bob Daniels. "Now is the time to act, if you are in the vulnerable category stay home. If you are not in that category and need to go out, do what the CDC recommends, stay at least 6-feet away from others and do not gather in groups larger than 10."

Under the Governor's new order, senior citizens and people with significant underlying health conditions must stay home and take all measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19. All others can leave home only to obtain essential services or perform essential activities. The Board decided that:

Retail businesses, operations or organizations not included in the category of essential services or activities listed in the governor's order must close.

All businesses, operations, and organizations continuing to operate pursuant to the governor's order must comply with CDC guidelines for social distancing and hazard mitigation.



The County Administrator is empowered to issue orders to close businesses that are not in compliance.

Citizens who do not fall into the high-risk category may still get exercise outdoors, including walking, biking, fishing, and swimming, provided they adhere to social distancing guidelines. Pinellas County Parks and Preserves will remain open, except for Sand Key Park, Fort De Soto Park, and the education centers at Weedon Island Preserve and Brooker Creek Preserve.

Essential businesses and services will continue to operate. They include those served by first responders, health care workers, law enforcement officers, grocery store employees, agriculture workers, bank employees, gas station and auto repair workers, construction workers, postal workers, those who work in vital infrastructure industries, and those who work in manufacturing facilities that support critical supply chains. Restaurants and food establishments may continue delivery, carry-out and/or curbside service.

The Executive order from the Governor and orders from the Pinellas County Commission can be found here:

[Pinellas County Commission Extension of Emergency Declaration](#)

[Power to Cancel Public Gatherings of more than 10 People](#)

[Power to Enforce Governor's Executive Order 20-91](#)

For more information, contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.

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