

Rick Staly, Sheriff FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: March 23, 2020 Prepared by: Brittany Kershaw Phone and Email: (386) 586-2637; <u>bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com</u> Release #: 057

FCSO Update on COVID-19 Precautions 3.23.2020

Video News Release available here: <u>https://youtu.be/XTN9M_CoU9k</u>

Good Afternoon. I'm Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly with a Monday COVID-19 update.

As of 6am today, all beaches, parks, community centers, camping sites, and public restrooms in Flagler County are closed to the public by order of the Flagler County Government, the local City Governments, and the Flagler County Health Department until further notice.

Please follow these orders and do not visit the beaches, parks, or community centers until further notice. Our deputies have been directed to educate the community on these emergency orders but repeat violators could be given a notice to appear in court for violating the emergency order.

Our restaurants remain closed under the Governor's order but you may order take-out and they can deliver.

In addition to the above orders, Palm Coast Mayor Milissa Holland issued a voluntary request to residents of Palm Coast to stay at home and only leave the house for essential needs. While this is a voluntary order, staying at home and limiting interaction with others has helped stop the spread of the virus in other states and countries.

Starting today AdventHealth Palm Coast is limiting surgeries and elective procedures due to the spread of COVID-19. They are also limiting visitation to power-of-attorneys and medical decision-makers only, and not allowing visitors for socialization purposes. They will make exceptions for extenuating purposes. AdventHealth is encouraging patients and their loved ones to stay connected through virtual means, such as Skype and FaceTime.

As for Sheriff's operations, if you need to request Records from our Agency please visit the Tax Collector's walk-up window at the Government Services Building between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may also request public records by sending an email to



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www.flaglersheriff.com

<u>PublicRecordsRequest@flaglersheriff.com</u> – this is the recommended process during this time.

The Flagler County Government Services Building is closed to the public except by appointment. The tax collector is open through their walk-up window. The Courthouse is closed to the public with a few exceptions for court related matters and the Clerk of the Court. There are new access procedures for both buildings that include answering questions and having your temperature taken at the entrance. If you have a temperature of 100 degrees or more you will be denied access.

As you can see on these charts, the testing and positive cases are increasing and Flagler County is now on the map with confirmed cases. That is why you must take the advice of the Health Department and the CDC seriously and practice social distancing, refrain from group gatherings, and stay at home if you have any symptoms of illness or if you are in a high-risk category. If we do this together, we can end this pandemic sooner than later but it will take all of us working together and take this virus seriously.

We have seen in the news over the weekend that even those not considered high-risk are contracting the virus and can spread the virus. Please do your part to flatten the curve.

While all of this can cause people to worry, and raise anxiety levels it is important to know that all of these orders are in the best interest of keeping us safe and stopping this virus. While you must stay informed, stay away from social media sources that are not trusted news sources. Avoid rumors and the personal opinions of others that may cause unneeded stress during this time. Despite the quick spread of this virus, many patients are recovering or have already recovered. If you take the steps to protect yourself that have been outlined by the CDC and state and local orders, we stand a better chance at flattening the curve and recovering from this quickly.

As always, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office are working to serve and protect you. Stay upto-date by following us on social media or visit flaglersheriff.com/coronavirus or you can download the Flagler County Sheriff's Office app in the App Store or Google Play.

Let's continue to work together and follow the CDC guidelines and local and state orders so that we can get through this together and win the war on this virus.

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