



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** March 23, 2020

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**Release #:** 057

### **FCSO Update on COVID-19 Precautions 3.23.2020**

Video News Release available here: <https://youtu.be/wayL0mjyv1E>

Good Afternoon. This is Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly with a COVID-19 update for Tuesday, March 24.

On Monday evening, Governor Ron DeSantis announced a new Executive Order which requires anyone who flies to Florida from New York, New Jersey or Connecticut to self-isolate for 14 days upon entering the state or for the duration of their stay in Florida, whichever is shorter. This was ordered after over 190 flights arrived in Florida on Monday from the New York City area. There has been widespread coronavirus cases throughout the three states, so the self-isolation order is in an effort to protect Floridians from contracting the virus.

We know that many of our residents are originally from New York and New Jersey and still have relatives and friends there. If you or someone you know traveled to Florida from these states, please distance yourself from them until they are free from symptoms for 14 days.

We have received many calls, emails, and messages regarding the "Stay Home" recommendation issued by Palm Coast Mayor Milissa Holland. This is not an order. This is a voluntary suggestion by Mayor Holland to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. It is not something that law enforcement can or will enforce.

Flagler County Emergency Management is seeking donations of personal protective equipment and toilet paper to help our residents in need and those that cannot get out. If you would like to help in this effort, you can drop off these supplies Wednesday and Thursday March 25 and 26, at Rymfire Elementary School from 11am to 1pm and from 5pm-7pm both days. Remember this is for Personal Protective Equipment, such as masks and gloves and toilet paper only. . Questions should be directed to Flagler Volunteer Services at 386-416-7922

With all that is going on surrounding the virus, there is a lot of misinformation being shared. FEMA has

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created a rumor control page at the website you see on the screen [fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control](https://fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control). This is a great resource to myth-bust some of the rumors circulating regarding the virus.

If you have medical questions regarding COVID-19, AdventHealth launched a 24/7 Hotline to answer those questions. This includes an opportunity to speak with a nurse, if appropriate. The phone number is 877-847-8747.

We know that there is an increase in people experiencing stress, anxiety, and sadness during this worldwide pandemic. Please know that there are resources available to help you. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available around the clock at 1-800-273-8255. The Lifeline is a free, confidential resource that is available to anyone in crisis. You can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are a veteran, you can call the same number and Press 1 to speak with a qualified VA responder.

The Flagler Humane Society is still open and has pets that need to be adopted or fostered. They have modified their hours and will be open from 12pm-4pm. If you are interested, stop by or call 386-445-1814. Adoption fees are waived for all adult animals.

As you can see from these charts, the confirmed cases in Florida are increasing daily. That is mostly because more people are being tested. While 1,412 cases are confirmed in Florida, I want you to know that more than 11,000 tests came back negative. According to the Florida Department of Health, there are four confirmed cases in Flagler County. As you can also see from these numbers and charts, we still need to follow the CDC guidelines and practice social distancing and good hygiene.

I also want to thank our community members and local businesses for complying with the local, state, and city orders. We know that it is not ideal to have the restaurants, beaches, parks, and trails temporarily closed, however, we appreciate the community coming together to take these necessary steps to stop this virus in its tracks so we can all get back to normal as soon as possible.

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

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