

# SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

### **EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING PUBLIC BEACH CLOSURES IN SARASOTA COUNTY**

---

1. Declarations of Emergency to institute measures to prevent the spread of the recent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) have been issued by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Florida.
2. Public Health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and on March 16, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control amended their social distancing guidelines to suggest limiting any in-person gatherings to 10 people or less.
3. Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorizes Sarasota County to declare a state of local emergency, and further authorizes Sarasota County to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community during a declared emergency.
4. The Governor, through Executive Order 20-68, delegated to local governments the authority to order the closing of public beaches to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
5. The Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, through the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan, has delegated to the County Administrator the authority to declare a state of local emergency in Sarasota County. Pursuant to that authority, I declared a state of local emergency in Sarasota County on March 15, 2020.
6. In light of the rapidly evolving nature of the spread of COVID-19, particularly the imminent threat posed by close social interaction, and pursuant to the authority vested by Florida Statutes, and by delegation from the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners through the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the following Sarasota County Emergency Administrative Order is being issued.

**NOW, THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY SPECIFIED HEREIN, I, Jonathan R. Lewis, Sarasota County Administrator, do hereby order:**

All Sarasota County public beaches shall be closed to the public beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2020 and shall remain closed until further notice.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan R. Lewis  
County Administrator

3-20-20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date