

3/20/2020 Items

EMERGENCY ORDER EO 20- 1

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the discovery of COVID-19 in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a state of emergency for the United States of America effective March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to adopt social distancing measures and avoid gatherings of more than ten people; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-68 suspending the operation of bars, pubs, and nightclubs, directing parties accessing public beaches to limit gatherings to no more than ten people and practice social distancing, and directing restaurant establishments to limit occupancy to 50%, with a minimum of 6-feet between patrons and parties of no more than ten; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-71 suspending on-premises food consumption in restaurants and food establishments and ordering the closure of all gymnasiums and fitness centers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, political subdivisions are authorized to declare and enact a local state of emergency for a period of up to seven days, thereby waiving the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Section 37-35, Escambia County Code, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of local emergency for Escambia County effective as of 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners extended the state of local emergency for Escambia County until 1:59 p.m. on March 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of Escambia County, particularly those who are elderly, immunosuppressed, or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, minimizing contact is necessary to avoid the risk of COVID-19 infection for the residents of Escambia County; and

WHEREAS, the measures implemented herein are narrowly tailored to protect the residents of Escambia County and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the community; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, by Board action during a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board approved the measures implemented herein and authorized the County Administrator to execute this Order.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 37, Escambia County Code, the County Administrator on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares and establishes the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and are incorporated herein.
2. The following public properties and public facilities within the unincorporated areas of Escambia County are hereby closed:
 - a. Public beach areas;
 - b. Public beach accessways; and
 - c. Public beachfront parks.
3. This Order shall not apply to parks, beaches, and recreational facilities under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, or the federal government.
4. The Board of County Commissioners hereby requests that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection close adjacent park properties located on the barrier islands in and around Escambia County. The Board of County Commissioners further requests the Florida Department of Environmental Protection close access to Perdido Key State Park on Perdido Key Drive.
5. The Board of County Commissioners hereby requests the National Park Service close adjacent park properties of the Gulf Islands National Seashore located on the barrier islands in and around Escambia County. The Board of County Commissioners further requests the National Park Service close

access to the Fort Pickens and Perdido Key Areas of the Gulf Islands National Seashore and close access to the Gulf Islands National Seashore on State Road 399.

6. In accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 37, Article II, Sec. 37-42, Escambia County Code, any person violating any provision of this Order shall be prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 60 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

7. Vehicles on either barrier island parked in a County right-of-way without authorization from the County shall be immediately deemed a danger and subject to immediate removal by the enforcing agent at the owner's expense in accordance with Sec. 94-51, Escambia County Code of Ordinances.

8. This Order shall be effective as of 12:00 a.m. (CDT) on March 21, 2020, until further action by the Board of County Commissioners during the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 2, 2020.


Adopted this 20th day of March, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Janice P. Gilley
Janice P. Gilley, County Administrator

ATTEST: PAM CHILDERS
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Pam Childers
Deputy Clerk



Date Executed
3/20/2020