

## **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ORDER ESTABLISHING COVID-19 LIMITATIONS ON GATHERINGS**

**WHEREAS**, Declarations of Emergency to institute measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been issued by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Florida, and the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group.

**WHEREAS**, Public Health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction between people in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, and on March 15, 2020, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control amended their social distancing guidelines to suggest limiting any in-person gatherings to 50 people or less; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America recommending avoidance of gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorizes Hillsborough County to declare a state of local emergency, and further authorizes Hillsborough County to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 22, Article 2, Section 22-22, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws (Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance), and the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan delegates authority to declare a state of local emergency to the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 22-22, of the Hillsborough County Code, specifically authorizes the Emergency Policy Group with the power to declare that a state of emergency exists; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group declared a state of local emergency in response to a County wide threat from the COVID-19 Virus for all of Hillsborough County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group delegated to the County Administrator, the emergency management powers of the Emergency Policy Group, as set out in Section 22-23 of the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance, not already implemented by this Order, are hereby delegated to the County Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, 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, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, by Executive Order of the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group, the following Hillsborough County Administrator Order is being issued.

**NOW THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY** of the Executive Order of the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group, I, Michael Merrill, Hillsborough County Administrator do hereby order:

- **All public or private gatherings, including community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, sporting events, concerts and any similar events that bring together more than 50 people in a single room or a single space at the same time are prohibited.**
- **This order includes venues such as fitness centers, health clubs, private clubs and theaters, but does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, pharmacies, gas stations, bank/credit unions and shelters.**
- **Any restaurant, bar, private club or other establishment that offers food or drink for sale for on-premise consumption is not included in this order and remains subject to the Order Establishing COVID-19 Limitations on Hours and On-Premise Consumption of Food approved on March 16, 2020.**

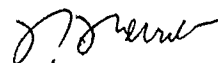
Hillsborough County recognizes that the businesses and employees that will be impacted by this directive are integral to Hillsborough County, and has been working to identify State and Federal programs designed to assist with business loss resulting from this state of emergency.

Hillsborough County, State and Federal Agencies, will continue to monitor this fluid situation and may impose further restrictions as necessary, including the closure of establishments, except for take-out and delivery of food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Hillsborough County encourages all local businesses to refer to the latest information by visiting the [HCFLGov.net/StaySafe](http://HCFLGov.net/StaySafe) and sign up for the HCFL Alert system. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control has up-to-date information available, as does the Florida Department of Health.

Said Order, as set out above, is to commence at 12:00 PM, March 17, 2020. Any violation of this Order shall be subject to the penalties in Chapter 22, Article 2, Section 22-28 of the Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws (Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance).

**EXECUTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Michael S. Merrill,  
Hillsborough County Administrator

I, **PAT FRANK**, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of the County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing establishing COVID-19 limitations on Gatherings has been filed with this office as an attachment to the Executive Order adopted by the Emergency Policy Group of Hillsborough County on March 12, 2020.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

PAT FRANK  
Clerk of Circuit Court

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: *Ernesto Mayaf*  
Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency