



**MARTIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY ORDER 20-01**

**AN ORDER REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF BEACHES DURING THE COVID-19
LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Section 51.4.C., General Ordinances, Martin County Code, authorizes the Director of the Emergency Management Agency to issue any such orders as are deemed necessary to protect life and property and preserve critical resources; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Director has determined that a State of Local Emergency exists within Martin County; and

WHEREAS, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a pandemic related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 as “high,” both in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, directing that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency in the State of Florida regarding the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Martin County to take protective measures – including activation of the emergency operations center, procurement of personal protective equipment, consequence management, and similar activities to support the public health and safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a State of Emergency for the Country to address the public health threat to the United States of America as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) issued the 15 Days to Slow the Spread guidance advising individuals to adopt far-reaching social distancing measures, such as working from home and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, a threat of impact from COVID-19 exists throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses a danger to life and the economic well-being of Martin County residents; and

WHEREAS, Martin County began implementing preparations to address the serious public health threat on January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Martin County declared a local state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 efforts which was extended by declaration on March 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Martin County declares that an emergency exists due to overwhelming crowds on the beaches of Martin County, that such crowding is likely to lead to the spread of COVID-19, and that immediate enactment of an Emergency Order to temporarily close the beaches in Martin County is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All beaches, beach accesses, and parking for beach accesses in Martin County, Florida are temporarily closed to the public
2. It shall be unlawful for members of the public to access the beaches in Martin County. This does not apply to property owners or residents and visitors who may access the beach via private beach crossovers.
3. For purposes of this Order the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. "Beach" shall include all sandy beach areas from the waters of the North Atlantic Ocean to the frontal dune, or where there is no frontal dune, to the line of permanent vegetation or construction, whichever is more seaward; and
 - b. "Beach access" shall mean public beach access points, including associated boardwalks, walkways, dedicated public parking areas, and the area on the beach beginning at the entrance of the beach.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately and shall be in effect until the Martin County Board of County Commissioners directs otherwise.

This Order shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller and thereafter have full force and effect of law.

If any provision of this Emergency Order is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Order, which shall continue to have the full force and effect of law.

I, Michele Jones, Emergency Management Director do hereby exercise my authority under Section 51.4.C., General Ordinances, Martin County Code and issue this Emergency Order 20-02 this 23rd day of March 2020.



Michele Jones
Emergency Management Director
Martin County Board of County Commissioners



Concurrence: Taryn Kryzda
County Administrator
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

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