

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
PROTECTIVE MEASURES RELATED TO COVID-19**

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

WHEREAS, in December 2019, a new and substantial outbreak of COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, and has since spread rapidly to 150 countries and territories throughout the World, including the United States, and more specifically Santa Rosa County and 26 other counties in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, issued a Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease Outbreak pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, as of March 19, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting that the total confirmed cases in the United States has increased to 10,442 with total deaths of 150; and

WHEREAS, with the advancement in testing of COVID-19 in the past week, the COVID-19 White House Task Force as well as the CDC is predicting that the amount of confirmed cases in the United States will increase rapidly in the next four to five days; and

WHEREAS, no vaccine or drug is currently available to cure or combat COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa County is threatened by COVID-19 because of the apparent ability of the virus to spread rapidly among humans, and COVID-19 thereby constitutes a clear and present threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Santa Rosa County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines for "community mitigation strategies" to limit the spread of COVID-19, including recommendations for social distancing, which has proven to be an effective method for containing COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa County Health Care Providers have provided recommendations to the County to further suppress the spread of COVID-19 including the closure of public beaches and prohibition of on-premise consumption at all restaurants; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52 regarding COVID-19, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida and authorizing in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, each political subdivision within the State to "waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to ... [the] [p]erformance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;" and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-68 regarding COVID-19, closing Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs and limiting gatherings of people on beaches and in restaurants; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor DeSantis at a press conference discussing Executive Order Number 20-68 stated that the Order was the "Floor for Florida for the Foreseeable Future" and he encouraged communities to go further with regulations if needed; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners declared a local state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the White House Taskforce on COVID-19 cautioned on March 18, 2020, that younger people are not taking seriously the need to social distance as they do not fall into the highest risk groups for COVID-19 and as a result other countries are beginning to see an increase in the number of young people becoming seriously ill in the ICUs; and

WHEREAS, Section 9-26, Santa Rosa County Code of Ordinances states that in a declared state of emergency the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, absent a decision made by a vote of the quorum of the board, is empowered to declare a local state of emergency and take prudent action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Administrator on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County, Florida, does hereby declare and establish that, effective March 21, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. CDT, until further action by the Board of County Commissioners:

1. The following public properties and facilities are closed:
 - a. Public areas on Navarre Beach
 - b. Public beach access ways
 - c. Navarre Beach Pier

2. All restaurants, bars, taverns, pubs, night clubs, banquet halls, cocktail lounges, cabarets, breweries, cafeterias, and any other alcohol and/or food service business establishment with seating for more than eight (8) people within Santa Rosa County shall close on-premises service of customers. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such establishments may operate their kitchens for the purpose of providing delivery services as authorized in section B below, and employees, janitorial personnel, contractors and delivery personnel shall be allowed access to such establishments.
 - a. This order shall not apply to grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, and convenience

stores, except that any discrete area of such establishments that provide alcohol or food service shall abide by the restrictions.

- b. This order shall not apply to delivery services, pick-up, or take out services provided by any of the establishments listed above
- c. This order shall not apply to restaurants that are ancillary to essential services, including the airport, secure facilities, and hospitals. Other essential services may be designated by the County Administrator or his designee.

3. In accordance with Chapter 9, Santa Rosa County Code of Ordinances, any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable as provided in Section 9-29.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Rosa County on this 20th day of March 2020.




(SEAL)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By:


Dan Schebler, County Administrator


Clerk of Circuit, Donald C. Spencer