



# Dixie County

## Plan for Opening Short-term Rentals

Page 1 of 2

May 18, 2020

**Dixie County is committed to the following plan to protect guest and property owners during the COVID-19 Crisis**

The basis of the Dixie County Plan for Opening Short-Term Rentals was developed by the Florida Vacation Rental Management Association and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. These guidelines (when implemented in addition to standards set by the CDC) seek to establish an industry wide best practice to ensure guest safety. The County recognizes the importance of keeping residents and visitors safe, and as such we would expect the following conditions to be required to reopen short term rentals.

### **Vacation Rental Reservations**

As per the recommendations of the Governor's task force, Dixie County will require guests to be ONLY Florida residents or those traveling from an area that is not a known "Hot Spot" during this phase, unless otherwise approved by the Governor. Reservations from International Travelers will not be accepted. Advanced Reservations that were made before COVID 19 will be honored.

### **Safety Measures**

- Remote check-ins should be available when possible to reduce face to face interactions.
- Dixie County will require owners to provide an adequate supply of cleaning products to include soap, hand sanitizer and surface sanitation supplies for the safety of their guests.
- Dixie County will require a minimum of 6 hours between stays to allow for proper cleaning and sanitation by the property owner.
- Cleaning personnel and vacation rental staff should use cleaning products in line with the EPA's list of products with "Emerging Viral Pathogens AND Human Coronavirus claims for use against SARS-CoV-2" <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-useagainst-sars-cov-2>
- Property owners and managers will adhere to all Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) sanitation guidelines already in place as addressed under 61C-3.001 Sanitation and Safety requirements of the transient lodging statutes.  
[http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/statutes/documents/61C\\_1348-bookmarks.pdf](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/statutes/documents/61C_1348-bookmarks.pdf)

- Property owners/managers will follow the CDC related guidelines that are for public spaces, businesses, schools and homes which expand upon the State of Florida & DBPR requirements already in place for safety and sanitation for all lodging. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
- All frequently-touched surfaces will be properly disinfected on a regular basis.
- All linens, dishware and other service items available for use by guests will be washed between each guest rental.
- Dixie County will require information to be posted conspicuously in the rental, stating all CDC guidelines and any local restrictions a guest may need to be aware of.
- Owner will ensure adequate safety protocols are in place and publicly displayed, in line with CDC guidance, regarding shared or multi-residence amenities such as pools, gyms and other communal spaces.
- Owner/Manager should encourage employees/guest to maintain a social distance (at least 6 feet) and not to gather in groups of larger than 10 people.

## **Other Best Practices**

- Property Owner/Manager should post signage or other notices regarding the cleaning practices that are completed prior to each guest stay.
- Property Owner/Manager should display signage or notices to guests in the rental property to frequently remind guests to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the wiping and sanitation of touched surfaces.
- Property Owner/Manager should supply guests with CDC guidance for guests traveling with pets and service/assistance animals.
- Property Owner/Manager should also share CDC sanitation guidance and resources to any guest while staying in their units. These resources are available in multiple languages at the CDC website.
- Property Owner/Manager should supply any and all employees or contractors with CDC related safety guidance while operating in the short term rental industry units to alleviate the transmission of the virus and provide further protection for employees and guests.
- Property Owner/Manager should monitor and restrict the use of homes for large gatherings. Home uses should be limited to the guests as registered occupants.

*This plan will be reviewed and updated as needed*