



**SARASOTA COUNTY**

*"Dedicated to Quality Service"*

May 18, 2020

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
c/o Secretary Halsey Beshears  
2601 Blair Stone Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1027

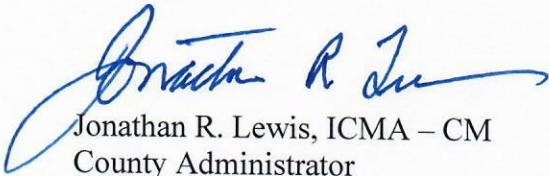
Re: ***Lifting Ban on Vacation Rentals for Sarasota County***

Dear Secretary Beshears:

Our local economy has suffered greatly, and one of those areas of impact is our legal short-term (vacation) rentals. Vacation rentals offer lodging options and promote social distancing. We are including "Sarasota County Vacation Rentals" for your consideration and approval.

I am available to discuss this matter further and will provide any additional information you may need to approve our request. Thank you again for your time, leadership and support shown to the citizens of Sarasota County.

Sincerely,



Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA – CM  
County Administrator

c: Sarasota County Commission

## Sarasota County Plan to Reopen Vacation Rentals

To allow vacation rental reservations and the acceptance of arriving guests in Sarasota County beginning on May 22, 2020, the following plan will be implemented.

- Reservation and stays will be allowed from U.S. states with a COVID-19 case rate of less than 700 cases/100K residents as of May 18.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html>
- Reservations from areas identified by Florida's Governor as COVID-19 hot spots through Executive Orders are to be avoided for the next 45 days.
- Reservations from international travelers will not be accepted.
- The reservation and check in/check out process, communications with guests and the acceptance of payments should be done electronically to minimize direct guest contact.
- All Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation requirements and recommended safety measures related to vacation rentals should be followed, these may be updated from time to time.
- Property owners and Managers must provide [CDC resources](#) to any guest while staying on property.
- Property owners and Managers must provide [CDC Guidance](#) to guests traveling with pets and service/assistance animals if the property is pet friendly.
- Property owners and Managers must provide guests with Sarasota County local COVID-19 information from the dedicated webpage on [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).
- Property owners and Managers will provide employees or contractors working in short-term rentals the [CDC related safety guidance](#) to alleviate the transmission of the virus and provide further protection for employees and guests.
- All Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) sanitation guidelines must be followed: [61C-001 Sanitation and Safety Requirements of the transient lodging statutes](#).
- Maintain adequate time between the conclusion of a guest stay and the check-in of the next guest stay for appropriate cleaning and sanitation.
- To inform guests signage will be placed at each property highlighting the cleaning protocols between stays.