**Florida Emergency Response to COVID-19**

**Executive Orders**

* Executive Order 20-51: This Executive Order directs the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency (3/1/20)
  + Florida’s State Surgeon General and State Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency exists in Florida as a result of COVID-19
* Executive Order 20-52: This Executive Order declares a state of emergency for the entire state of Florida as a result of COVID-19 (3/9/2020)
* Executive Order 20-68: This Executive Order will reduce density and crowds in restaurants, bars, nightclubs and beaches to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (3/17/20)
  + Bars and Nightclubs: all bars and nightclubs throughout Florida will close for the next 30 days. Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) will be enforcing and providing further guidance.
  + Beaches: directs parties accessing public beaches in the state of Florida to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance by limiting their gatherings to no more than 10 persons.
  + Restaurants: Restaurants across the state of Florida will now be required to limit customer entry to 50 percent of capacity. Seating must be staggered and limited to ensure seated parties are separated by a distance of at least six feet, in accordance with CDC guidelines. Restaurants are encouraged to remain open and expand take-out and delivery services. Additional information will be provided by DBPR.
* Executive Order 20-69: This Executive Order suspends the requirement for a quorum to be present in person and allows local government bodies to utilize telephonic or video conferencing technologies. This does not waive the requirement for “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws” (3/20/20)
* Executive Order 20-70: This Executive Order directs all movie theatres, concert houses, auditoriums, playhouses, bowling alleys, arcades, gymnasiums, fitness studios and beaches to close in Broward County and Palm Beach County. (3/20/20)
  + These closures shall remain in effect in accordance with the President’s “15 Days to Slow the Spread”, initiated on March 16, 2020. These closures shall expire on March 31, 2020 but may be renewed upon the written request of the County Administrator. The Broward County and Palm Beach County Administrators will also have the ability to enforce, relax, modify or remove these closures as they see fit.
  + Additionally, the Executive Order requires all restaurants, bars, pubs, night clubs, banquet halls, cabarets, breweries, cafeterias and any other alcohol and/or food service business establishment with seating for more than ten people within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Broward County and Palm Beach County to close on-premises service of customers.
* Executive Order-20-71: This Executive Order directs all restaurants and food establishments within the State of Florida to suspend on-premises food and alcohol consumption for customers. The listed establishments may, however, operate their kitchens for the purpose of providing delivery or take-out services. (3/20/20)
  + This Executive Order lifts the restriction that prohibits a specially licensed food service establishment from selling package sales of alcohol for delivery, take-out or consumption off-premises for restaurants complying with Executive Order 20-68, through the expiration of the state of emergency declared in Executive Order 20-52. Alcohol sales to go with food that is pick-up or delivered will be permitted and I.D. will be required for orders including alcohol.
  + Additionally, the Executive Order requires the closures of gymnasiums and fitness centers within the State of Florida. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) shall utilize its authorities under Florida law to further implement and enforce the provisions of this Executive Order and shall take additional measures as necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.
* Executive Order-20-72: This Executive Order pertains to non-essential elective medical procedures. All hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, office surgery centers, dental, orthodontic and endodontic offices, and other health care practitioners’ offices in the state of Florida are prohibited from providing any medically unnecessary, non-urgent or non-emergency procedure or surgery which, if delayed, does not place a patients immediate health, safety or wellbeing at risk, or will, if delayed, not contribute to the worsening of a serious or life-threatening medical condition. (3/20/20)
* Executive Order 20-80: This Executive Order directs all persons whose point of departure originates from outside the State of Florida in an area with substantial community spread, to include the New York Tri-State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York), and entering the State of Florida through airports to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into the State of Florida or the duration of the person’s presence in the State of Florida, whichever is shorter. (3/24/20)
* Executive Order 20-82: This Executive Order directs all persons who enter the State of Florida from an area with substantial community spread, to include the New York Tri-State Area (Connecticut, New Jersey and New York), to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into the State of Florida or the duration of the person’s presence in the State of Florida, whichever is shorter. (3/24/20)
* Executive Order 20-83: This Executive Order directs the State Surgeon General and State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory to all persons over 65 years of age urging them to stay home and to take such other measures as necessary to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19. (3/24/20)
* Executive Order 20-85: This Executive Order:
  + Amends the state employee health benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions, to include telehealth services at no additional cost to employees.
  + Amends the state employee pharmacy benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions, to include telehealth services, as appropriate, to employees participating in the SGI plan.
  + Ensures that all state employees have access to telehealth services through the state’s contracted HMO plans and PPO organization plan without cost sharing effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions.
  + Amends the state employee health plan benefits plan documents effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extensions, to provide employees participating in the State Employees’ Group Insurance Program the option to receive immunizations covered by the employee’s plan in either a participating physician’s office pursuant to the participant’s current PPO Plan Group Health Insurance Plan Booklet or a participant’s current HMO contract, or a participating pharmacy in the State Employees’ pharmacy benefit manager’s network.
  + Ensures that all cost sharing that would have been applicable to state employees seeking immunization services under this Executive Order for the influenza vaccination be waived effective immediately through the expiration of Executive Order 20-52. (3/26/20)
* Executive Order 20-86: This Executive Order directs all persons who enter the State of Florida from an area with substantial community spread, to include the State of Louisiana, inclusive of those entering the State of Florida by roadways, to isolate or quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of entry into the State of Florida or the duration of the person’s presence in the State of Florida, whichever is shorter. (3/27/20)
* Executive Order 20-87: This Executive Order orders all parties engaged in rental of vacation rental properties to suspend vacation rental operations. Vacation rentals are prohibited from making new reservations or bookings and shall not accept new guests for check-in for the duration of this order. (3/27/20)
* Executive Order 20-88: This Executive Order is in regards to re-employment of essential personnel. (3/30/20)
* Executive Order 20-89: This Executive Order is in regards to public access restrictions in Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County and Monroe County. (3/30/20)
* Executive Order 20-90: This Executive Order is in regards to Broward and Palm Beach County Closures. (3/31/20)
* Executive Order 20-91: This Executive Order requires all persons in Florida to limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities. (4/1/20)
  + People are only permitted to leave the home for essential services or activities.
  + About 900 new cases have been reported in each of the past three days.
  + This order will go into effect Thursday night at midnight.
* Executive Order 20-92: This Executive Order clarifies EO-91.
* Executive Order 20-93: This Executive Order directs the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and other executive agencies to take necessary actions to improve DEO’s Reemployment Assistance Program. (4/2/20)
* Executive Order 20-94: This Executive Order provides targeted, temporary relief from certain mortgage foreclosures and evictions for 45 days, without relieving an individual’s obligation to make mortgage payments and rent payments. (4/2/20)

**Florida Recovery Assistance Options**

* Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program: Governor DeSantis has activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program. The purpose of the program is to provide an expedient source of capital to impacted small businesses. The bridge loan is a short-term, interest-free source of working capital intended to help the business “bridge the gap” between the time of impact and when federal assistance is available. Application deadline: May 8, 2020. (<https://floridadisasterloan.org/application/>)
* Reemployment Assistance: Individuals who may be eligible for Reemployment Assistance include: 1) those who are quarantined by a medical professional or government agency 2) those who are laid off or sent home without pay for an extended period by their employer due to COVID-19 concerns 3) those who are caring for an immediate family member who is diagnosed with COVID-19. (<http://www.floridajobs.org/>)
* Short Term Compensation Program for Employees: The goal of this program is to compensate 1) employees retained during a temporary slowdown can resume high production levels when business conditions improve and are spared the hardships of full unemployment. 2) Employers avoid the expense of recruiting, hiring, and training new workers when business conditions improve. 3) Employers who must permanently reduce their workforce can use the program as a transition to layoff. Affected employees may continue to work at reduced levels with an opportunity to find other employment before the expected layoff. (<http://floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-workforce-services/reemployment-assistance-programs/short-time-compensation-program-for-employers>)

**State of Florida Agencies**

Florida’sstate agencies are open for business, however, agency offices are closed to the public following CDC and Governor DeSantis guidance. Agencies are transitioning the majority of state personnel to telework. Interactions with state staff should be conducted via electronic means. While there is not an expected delay, agencies operations are geared to response, which may require an allocation of resources including personnel. Non-essential travel for state workers has also been suspended for the next 30 days.

In accordance with Executive Order 20-52, the following agencies have suspended or waived applications and deadlines, or provided more guidance as it relates to agency functions:

* Agencies for Persons with Disabilities
* Department of Business and Professional Regulation
* Department of Children and Families
* Department of Economic Opportunity
* Department of Education
* Department of Emergency Management
* Department of Health
* Department of Juvenile Justice
* Department of Lottery
* Department of Management Services
* Department of Transportation

For more information on executive agency actions, please visit <https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/>

**Legislative Information**

* The Florida Legislature concluded their regular legislative session in March, passing a $93B budget. Within the budget, the Legislature provided the necessary resources to address the state’s ongoing response to COVID-19. The Legislature’s action will support the Florida Department of Health’s ability to receive new funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Legislature is expected to reconvene later this spring to reevaluate the budget due to the economic impacts caused by COVID-19.
* Florida Senate President Bill Galvano issued a memo to the Senate re: the fiscal impacts from COVID-19.
  + The memo notes Florida’s general revenue reserve cash balance for the current fiscal year is anticipated to be in excess of $2 billion.
  + He also notes that "we may need to return to Tallahassee, at the appropriate time in fiscal year 2020-21, to formally appropriate available federal funding."
  + <https://statics3.lobbytools.com/docs/2020/4/2/120826_memo_senate_president_galvano_re_fiscal_update.pdf>

**National Information**

* Federal Disaster Declaration – State of Florida: President Trump has declared that a major disaster exists in the state of Florida and has ordered federal assistance to help state, tribal and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19 coronavirus. This action makes federal funding available for crisis counseling for affected people throughout the state. Funding is also accessible to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain non-profit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, for all areas impacted by COVID-19. (3/25/20)