



MARTIN COUNTY

Info Release

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2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

COVID-19 Release #6

For immediate release: March 19, 2020

Contact: Martha Ann Kneiss, Administration 772-214-2790

First positive case of COVID-19 confirmed in Martin County

The Florida Department of Health has identified the first positive case of COVID-19 in Martin County. The news comes less than a week after Cleveland Clinic Martin Health began drive-through testing.

On March 16, Martin County declared a local state of emergency, which provides the county additional avenues to obtain protective equipment for first responders and sanitation supplies for critical public facilities; to make adjustments on leave policies; to tap into financial reserves to deal with potential emergencies; and to seek federal reimbursement for consequence management actions.

As of March 19, Florida has confirmed 390 cases of COVID-19 across the state. Martin County Emergency Management continues to work closely with local, state and federal officials and nonprofit agencies to monitor the spread of the disease. The county is also actively using social media and other communication means to provide prevention and social-distancing recommendations from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Florida Department of Health, and to respond to misinformation and rumors.

Martin County's Community Information Center is staffed to answer questions regarding county business, as well as general information from our elected and constitutional officers and community partners, including the Martin County School District, as it relates to COVID-19. Residents and visitors can call 772-287-1652 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 days a week.

For all **HEALTH-RELATED** questions regarding COVID-19, please call the Florida Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 call center, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Florida Department of Health 24/7 State Hotline: (866) 779-6121, email: covid-19@flhealth.gov

The message for prevention continues to be everyone's responsibility, with the key focus on social distancing and avoidance of large gatherings to prevent the spread of germs. Individuals should continue to wash their hands often and thoroughly, using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

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Other measures to aid in prevention include:

- Practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet between yourself and others
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people
- Self-isolate if you are sick
- Call your regular physician, local emergency room, or urgent care clinic for screening to determine whether you should be seen by medical personnel.

Be a hero to yourself and those around you. Public health authorities suggest the cancellation of gatherings greater than 10 people and smaller gatherings that may bring people from multiple areas in the U.S. Gatherings and crowds also exist in other places—like work or stores or beaches—so know what to do. Limit interactions if you are 65 or older and have underlying or chronic health conditions such as compromised immunity, diabetes or heart or lung disease.

Visit www.martin.fl.us/coronavirus, Martin County's online resource for services, news and information. Follow us on [Facebook](#) at @MartinCountyBoardofCountyCommissioners, [Twitter](#) @MartinCountygov and [Instagram](#) @martincountyflorida. Subscribe to our [Youtube Channel](#) @MartinCountyFL.

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