



MARTIN COUNTY

COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Release #12

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Martin County community update

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread globally, Martin County is committed to actively monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness and response efforts with local health officials, community agencies, first responders, legislative partners and other critical stakeholders. Our primary concern is to protect the health and well-being of Martin County residents and visitors.

RECENT UPDATES

Boat ramps closed over weekend:

Effective Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m., all Martin County boat ramps will be closed to recreational boating activities for the weekend. Ramps will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 30.

Licensed commercial fisherman will be permitted to operate with limited hours at the boat ramps in Sandsprit Park during the closure. Commercial fisherman will be allowed to launch at Sandsprit boat ramps between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Commercial fisherman will be required to produce a copy of their commercial license, and/or a Martin County business tax receipt, to utilize the ramps.

HazMobile service discontinued:

As of Thursday, March 26, the HazMobile program has been suspended through the month of April and will no longer be visiting locations throughout the county for residents to drop off their household hazardous waste. Residents may still drop these materials off at the hazardous waste facility located at the Martin County Transfer Station (9101 SW Busch Street, Palm City).

Martin County beaches closed:

All Martin County-owned beaches are closed until further notice. This does not apply to property owners, residents and visitors at beachfront properties, who may utilize their private access. The closure includes Sand Dune Café at Jensen Beach.

Martin County School District:

Martin County School District-operated schools will remain closed through April 15. The district will move to a digital instruction plan on March 30. This week they began distributing laptops to students in need and continued providing free meals to children.

Building closures:

All county buildings and constitutional offices (Tax Collector, Clerk and Comptroller, Supervisor of Elections and Property Appraiser) are closed to walk-in traffic but still providing service to the public through alternate means. Residents are urged to utilize online, email and over-the-phone resources.

All branches of the Martin County library system are closed. All material due dates have been extended to April 21 and no fines will be accrued. Although our buildings are closed we will still be honoring holds at all of our library locations. You can pick up your hold by going to the front entrance with your library card and a staff member will retrieve your item(s) for you. While libraries are closed, the following services will be provided:

- Hold pick-up at each location (during normal library hours)
- Receive item returns in outside book drops
- Email and telephone reference (during normal library hours)
- Online classes and downloadable eBooks and eAudio (24 hours a day/7 days a week)

State and federal government actions:

At Governor Ron DeSantis' direction, the State Surgeon General and Health Officer issued a public health advisory to all persons over the age of 65 and person with serious underlying medical conditions to stay home and take other measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19. The advisory also encourages employers to allow telework when possible and make efforts to reduce the onsite workforce.

Governor DeSantis also issued an order directing anyone who enters Florida from an area with substantial community spread, including Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, to isolate for 14 days from the time of entry into Florida or the duration of the person's presence in the state.

President Donald Trump declared Florida a major disaster area, which grants access to certain federal programs and provides additional resources to the state.

The Florida Department of Revenue issued an emergency order to extend the final due date for 2019 property tax payments to April 15.

KEY COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Support our local businesses:

We encourage you to support our local businesses by ordering from area restaurants that are offering take-out, delivery and curbside pickup services. For a list of restaurants offering amended services, as well as a variety of resources for small businesses, visit www.protectourparadise.com. In addition, many of your favorite local shops are conducting business online and ready to ship products directly to you.

Business resources:

The Martin County Business Development Board has created a centralized online resource to help meet the ever-changing needs and interests of local businesses. It features announcements, updates, links to state and federal business loan programs, connections to small business, job and workforce development partners and more. Visit <https://bdbmc.org/covid-19-biz-hub/> for more information.

211:

211 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to connect residents with resources for food, paying housing bills, mental health services and more. For assistance, dial 2-1-1 or 561-383-1112.

Basic needs:

If you are unable to meet basic needs like housing, food and healthcare, call House of Hope at 772-286-4673 or Salvation Army of Martin County at 772-288-1471.

Food distribution:

Treasure Coast Food Bank supports a network of local emergency food assistance programs. If you are in need of food, please contact one of our agency partners listed at <https://stophunger.org/findhelp/>. For further assistance, contact the Treasure Coast Food Bank Partner Relations Department at 772-489-3034 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You will be directed to the nearest emergency food provider in your area.

The Martin County School District's Food and Nutrition Services Department will provide free meals to children from 9:30 a.m. to noon through Wednesday, April 15. Meals will be served to children aged 18 and under at the following locations:

- Hobe Sound Elem. School: 11555 SE Gomez Ave., Hobe Sound
- J.D. Parker Elem. School: 1010 E. 10th St., Stuart
- Jensen Beach Elem. School: 2525 NE Savannah Rd., Jensen Beach (beginning March 30)
- Port Salerno Elem. School: 3260 SE Lionel Terr., Stuart
- Warfield Elem. School: 15260 SW 150th St., Indiantown

House of Hope is distributing prepackaged food directly into client's vehicles. Clients on foot and bicycle will also be served. Information for those new to the service can be found at <https://www.hohmartin.org/news> or by calling 772-286-4673.

Senior resources:

The Council on Aging of Martin County has resources for Martin County seniors in need. For more information related to meal delivery, the emergency food pantry, 24-hour hotline, caregiver counseling, case manager navigator and the Day Medical Center, visit their website at <https://www.kanecenter.org/>.

Help for veterans:

The Florida Veterans Foundation has teamed up with the American Legion of Florida to create the COVID-19 Project Vet Relief Fund. This will help with emergency assistance for those veterans who are affected by this pandemic around the state of Florida. Learn more via the [Florida Veterans Foundation website](#).

If you are a veteran, widow of a veteran, or child who would benefit from the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer, please don't hesitate to call the Veterans Services Office at 772-228-5448, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Visit www.martin.fl.us/Coronavirus, Martin County's online resource for information related to COVID-19. Martin County's Community Information Center is staffed to answer questions regarding county business, closures, services and general information from our elected and constitutional officers and community partners, including the Martin County School District. Call 772-287-1652 from 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. daily.

For direct questions or guidance in reference to COVID-19, you can call the 24-hour Florida Department of Health Call Center at 866-779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov. You may also call the Florida Department of Health in Martin County between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 772-221- 4000, extension 9.

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive emergency alerts, including information about COVID-19, by phone, text and/or email. To sign up, simply text ALERTMARTIN to 888777 or [register online](#).

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MAK/ADM



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