



# MARTIN COUNTY

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# COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Release #20

For immediate release: April 10, 2020

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## **Martin County community update: April 10, 2020**

### **RECENT UPDATES**

#### **\*New\* Park facilities and amenities:**

Use of trails, pathways, boardwalks, fishing piers and open areas is permitted in county-owned parks. All programs, amenities, facilities and athletic complexes are closed, including water fountains and restrooms. Phipps Park Campground will remain open and will not accept any new reservations. County-owned beach parks, Martin County Golf Course and Sailfish Splash Waterpark are also closed.

#### **\*New\* Golf courses:**

At the special meeting of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners held on April 9, the board voted to allow golf courses to remain open provided they restrict access and follow social distancing guidelines. At all Martin County courses, players will be required to show proof of Martin County residency or club membership as of April 9, 2020. Proof of residency includes a Florida ID with a Martin County address or a current utility bill with a Martin County service address. Guests are not permitted. For additional details, view [Emergency Order 20-03](#) and [Golf Course Recommendations](#).

Golf courses that are exclusively used by members, and not open to the public, may only allow access to those who are existing club members.

Golf courses that are used by members and are also accessible for public use are open to existing club members or Martin County residents.

Golf courses that are open for public use are accessible only to Martin County residents.

#### **\*New\* Boating:**

##### **Recreational:**

Martin County-owned boat ramps will be open for recreational boating activities on weekdays and be closed on weekends only. Ramps will close at 8 p.m. on Friday night and reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday morning.

##### **Commercial:**

During the closure, those with state licenses for commercial marine activity will be permitted to operate 24 hours a day at the boat ramps in Sandsprit Park and the Jensen Beach Boat Ramp just north of Indian RiverSide Park. Users will be required to produce a copy of their commercial license, and/or a Martin County business tax receipt, to utilize the ramps during the weekend closure.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has closed all state-owned uplands, such as beaches, islands, sandbars and emergent shoals within aquatic preserves. This closure includes the sandbars located in the Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, an order by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has directed that recreational vessels shall have no more than 10 people on board and maintain a 50-foot distance between each vessel.

**\*New\* BOCC special meetings:**

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners has scheduled a weekly special meeting to discuss COVID-19 related issues. These meetings will be held Fridays at 9 a.m. Meetings are available on MCTV, Comcast Channel 20. The meetings are also streamed on our website at [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us) and on Martin County's Facebook page.

**\*New\* Testing hours updated:**

Cleveland Clinic Martin Health is performing drive-thru testing for COVID-19 by appointment only at Martin North Hospital, 200 SE Hospital Avenue in Stuart, and Tradition Hospital, 10000 SW Innovation Way in Port St. Lucie. Testing will only be performed for individuals who meet FDOH criteria for COVID-19. The CDC provides the testing guidelines.

For an appointment, individuals who have symptoms must call 772-419-3360, between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday and 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Testing hours for both locations are from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. For additional information, visit [www.martinhealth.org](http://www.martinhealth.org).

**\*New\* Jury duty:**

Based on the recent Florida Supreme Court Order, the next juror reporting date is Monday, June 1. Jurors who received a summons for March 23 through May 25 do not need to report for jury duty. No further action is needed. For more information, visit [www.martinclerk.com/](http://www.martinclerk.com/).

**\*New\* MARTY public transit:**

Effective Monday, April 13, Route 1 will be operating on a reduced schedule until further notice. To view the schedule, visit [www.martin.fl.us/BusSchedule](http://www.martin.fl.us/BusSchedule).

**COUNTY INFORMATION**

**Martin County School District:**

Martin County School District-operated schools will remain closed through Friday, May 1. Digital instruction continues. For technical support for school-issued laptops for virtual learning, email [MCSDLaptops@martinschools.org](mailto:MCSDLaptops@martinschools.org). For more information, visit the school district's [website](#).

**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. 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 May 1. 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 ACTIONS**

[EO 20-91: Essential Services and Activities During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

On Wednesday, April 1, Governor Ron DeSantis issued a statewide "Safer at Home" order, requiring everyone 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. This order will remain in effect until April 30 unless it is extended or rescinded. The order in its entirety can be found [here](#). **\*New\*** View the [Governor's Frequently Asked Questions](#) about this order for more information.

[EO 20-92: Essential Services and Activities During COVID-19 Emergency](#)

This order supersedes any conflicting actions or orders enacted by local officials.

### [EO 20-93: Reemployment Assistance Program](#)

With thousands of Floridians seeking help from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Reemployment Assistance Program leading to significantly greater demand upon DEO's personnel, infrastructure, technology and resources, the Governor has directed that personnel redirect their current responsibilities and be deployed to work with the federal government and other state agencies to pursue all measures necessary to help Florida citizens.

### [EO 20-94: Mortgage Foreclosure and Eviction Relief](#)

Foreclosures and evictions suspended solely as it relates to non-payment for rent by residential tenants due to COVID-19.

### [EO 20-95: Documentary Stamps for SBA Loans](#)

Encourages small businesses in Florida to apply for loans while waiving documentary stamp taxes.

## **COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RESOURCES**

### **\*New\* CARES Act:**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, provides direct financial relief for families and assistance for small businesses.

### **CARES Act economic impact payment**

\$1,200 recovery checks will be sent to individuals earning up to \$75,000 or married couples earning under \$150,000. Benefits are reduced for income starting at \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly. Couples will also receive an additional \$500 for each child. Eligibility is based on 2019 (or 2018 if 2019 not filed) tax returns.

Economic impact payments will be distributed automatically and deposited directly into the same banking account reflected on 2018 or 2019 tax returns. Beginning the end of April, paper checks will be mailed to those who do not have direct deposit information on file with the IRS. For more information, visit [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

### **CARES Act small business assistance**

Federally guaranteed loans are available via the Paycheck Protection Program to provide eight weeks of cash flow assistance to small businesses with less than 500 employees who maintain their payroll during this emergency. If employers maintain their payroll, they are eligible to have their loans forgiven. Loans are available for up to \$10 million or 2.5 times the average monthly payroll of the business. For more information, view this helpful information sheet from the US Department of the Treasury website at <https://home.treasury.gov>.

### **Business resources:**

The Martin County Business Development Board (BDB) has created a centralized online resource, [Martin County BIZHub](#), 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. Businesses can also call the BDB at 772-221-1380 or email [info@bdbmc.org](mailto:info@bdbmc.org).

### **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](http://www.protectourparadise.com). In addition, many of your favorite local shops are conducting business online and ready to ship products directly to you.

### **\*New\* Reemployment assistance:**

Governor DeSantis has waived the eligibility requirements for claimants currently seeking unemployment benefits. Claimants do not need to register with the state job search portal (Employ Florida) and do not need to submit the number of employers they contact each week. The suspension of these requirements has a retroactive start date of March 15, 2020 through May 2, 2020. For more information about benefits and how to apply, visit [www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19).

Many people are having difficulty accessing the online application. You can now [download an application](#) and mail it to Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, PO Box 5350, Tallahassee, FL 32314-5350.

If you do not have internet access and need assistance completing the online application, please contact Martin County Health and Human Services at 772-288-5785. In addition, if you need help with finding employment, please visit [www.careersourcerc.com](http://www.careersourcerc.com) or contact Career Source at 866-482-4473.

**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:**

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 [www.hohmartin.org/new](http://www.hohmartin.org/new) or by calling 772-286-4673.

The Martin County School District's Food and Nutrition Services Department will provide free meals to children from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Friday, May 1. 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. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Stuart
- Jensen Beach Elem. School: 2525 NE Savannah Rd., Jensen Beach
- Port Salerno Elem. School: 3260 SE Lionel Terr., Stuart
- Warfield Elem. School: 15260 SW 150<sup>th</sup> St., Indiantown

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/>.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County is providing free meals to children under the age of 18, regardless of whether or not they are club members. Free, ready-to-eat meals for families are also available. Meals can be picked up drive-thru style outside the clubs.

- Youth can stop by from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Families can pick up from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Those picking up meals can arrive on foot, by bike or by car
- Meals are available for pick up at:

- Cole-Clark Club, 11500 SE Lares Ave., Hobe Sound
- Bill & Barbara Whitman Club, 17375 SW Palm Beach St., Indiantown
- H. Wayne Huizenga Club, 1150 SW Martin Downs Blvd., Palm City
- John & Marge Bolton Club, 4731 SE Flounder Ave., Stuart

**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 [www.kanecenter.org](http://www.kanecenter.org).

## PREVENTION REMINDERS

The Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urges everyone to protect themselves by using the following precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Get adequate sleep and well-balanced meals
- Wash hands often with soap and water (20 seconds or longer)
- Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect “high touch” surfaces often
- Call before visiting your doctor
- Follow guidelines for social distancing
- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain

## INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Visit [www.martin.fl.us/Coronavirus](http://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. Call 772-287-1652 from 7 a.m.- 6 p.m. daily, except Sunday, April 12.

For direct questions or guidance in reference to COVID-19, you can call the 24-hour Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Call Center at 866-779-6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto: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. Information is also available on the FDOH [website](#). For case count information, visit the FDOH COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

**\*New\*** For Martin County specific case information, check out the Martin County [dashboard](#).

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](#).

For the most up-to-date info on Martin County happenings, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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