



## Martin County community update: May 1, 2020

**Martin County Update Video** with Commission Chair Harold Jenkins:  
<https://youtu.be/4komZejez0c>

We remain steadfast in our resolve to make Martin County a safe and healthy place to call home. As we move into the recovery phase, protecting the health and safety of our employees, residents and visitors remains the county's primary goal. Collaborating with federal, state and local partners, we will provide guidelines for our community with a data-driven approach. **Together** we will approach new challenges with resilience and sustainability to protect that which is most precious to us. **Together** we can get through this. **Together** we can move our community forward. **Together Martin.**

### RECENT UPDATES

#### **\*New\* Boat ramps:**

All restrictions for Martin County-owned boat ramps have been lifted as of May 1, 2020. State restrictions remain in place as follows:

- All state-owned uplands, such as beaches, islands, sandbars and emergent shoals within aquatic preserves, including the sandbars located in the Intracoastal Waterway, remain closed by order of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- 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\* Beaches:**

All Martin County public beach access points, with the exception of Hobe Sound Beach, will be open as of Monday, May 4. Beachgoers must follow CDC guidelines and park in designated spaces. Bathtub Beach remains closed due to existing erosion issues.

#### **\*New\* County parks:**

At the May 1 Martin County Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board relaxed restrictions for recreational activities at county-owned facilities. Pavilions and public restrooms will open, while playgrounds and playground equipment remain closed due to health safety concerns.

There are no further restrictions on racquet sports such as tennis, racquetball and pickleball. The board requests that players participating in racquet sports adhere to social distancing guidelines on and off the courts. In addition, it is important for players to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.

Use of trails, pathways, boardwalks, fishing piers and open areas is permitted. Lap swimming will be reopened at Sailfish Splash Waterpark. Phipps Park Campground will remain open and is not accepting any new reservations.

Social distancing and group size restrictions at all Martin County parks and facilities, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are required.

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

Effective Friday, May 1, Martin County golf courses are allowed to be open to both residents and non-residents. New guidelines allow 2 golfers per cart as long as they belong to the same household. Courses will need to have a system to identify two-person carts that have been checked and can be visibly recognized from a distance. In addition, courses must continue to follow PGA, USGA, CDC and NGCOA COVID-19 guidelines.

**\*New\* Governor DeSantis reopening plan:**

On Wednesday, April 29, Governor Ron DeSantis released his “Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery” which outlines a phased approach to reopening.

Highlights of Phase 1 include:

- Schools continue with distance learning
- Visits to senior living facilities are prohibited
- Elective surgeries statewide can resume
- Restaurants may offer outdoor seating with six-foot space between tables and indoor seating at 25% capacity
- Retail can operate at 25% of indoor capacity
- No change for bars or gyms
- Vulnerable individuals should avoid close contact with people outside of their home

Related materials:

- [Executive Order 20-112](#)
- [FAQs for Executive Order 20-112](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Reopening](#)
- [Task Force Report](#)

**\*New\* Paycheck Protection Program:**

The Small Business Administration resumed accepting Paycheck Protection Program applications on Monday, April 27 after additional funds were approved for the program. For more information, visit the [SBA website](#).

**\*New\* Martin County BizHub:**

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).

BizHub has been expanded with a new “Get Ready” section to provide businesses with information on how to open safely once it is determined by state government and health officials that it is time to do so. View the new information [here](#).

**\*New\* Vehicle registration:**

The Martin County Tax Collector’s office has announced that Express Lane same day/next day tag service is currently available. [Order and pay online](#) and then pick up at the Palm City office drive-thru window.

**\*New\* School District:**

All Florida school districts will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. All Martin County School District and school-related events, programs, athletic events and activities have been canceled for the same time period, with the exception of high school graduation ceremonies. The district continues to collaborate with health and safety experts to plan traditional graduation ceremonies, tentatively in late July. More information will be released as it becomes available. Continue to monitor the Martin County School District’s [website](#).

**\*New\* Local State of Emergency:**

The Martin County Local State of Emergency was extended to include previously issued Emergency Orders. Read the most recent order [here](#).

**COUNTY INFORMATION****Special BOCC meeting:**

The next special meeting of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for Friday, May 8 at 9 a.m. in the John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library. Meetings are open to the public and available on MCTV, Comcast Channel 20 and U-verse Channel 99. Meetings are also streamed on our website at [www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us) and on Martin County's Facebook and YouTube pages.

**Public comment at BOCC meetings:**

The fillable public comment form for Board of County Commissioners meetings can be found at [www.martin.fl.us/BCCPublicComment](http://www.martin.fl.us/BCCPublicComment). Commenters simply provide their name, the item they wish to comment on, enter up to 5,000 characters of text and then click submit. Once received, staff will review the comments to make sure they don't violate county policy. During the meeting, county staff will read the message into the record but will be limited to three minutes per the county's established public comment procedure. Comments for an item must be submitted prior to the end of the public comment period for that item to be read into the record. Staff will then provide the comments, in their entirety, to the Clerk to attach to the minutes as an official record.

**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. For additional information, please visit [www.martin.fl.us/coronavirus](http://www.martin.fl.us/coronavirus).

The Robert Morgade Library will be closing for maintenance on Monday, May 4 until further notice.

**STATE ACTIONS****Governor's Executive Orders:**

All of Governor DeSantis' recent Executive Orders can be found on the county website at [www.martin.fl.us/coronavirus](http://www.martin.fl.us/coronavirus) under "Actions."

**Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles:**

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles authorized changes and extensions to driver licenses, identification cards, registration, delinquent fees and in-person interviews. Visit [www.flhsmv.gov/covid-19](http://www.flhsmv.gov/covid-19) for more information.

**Florida Department of Health (Long-term care facilities):**

The Florida Department of Health has published a list of long-term care facilities that have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in staff and/or residents. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

**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/).

**TESTING****Cleveland Clinic Martin Health:**

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. Anyone over the age of 16 who has a fever and respiratory illness (such as cough, runny nose, sneezing) or any patient with a fever and gastrointestinal illness (such as diarrhea, vomiting) is eligible for testing. For an appointment, individuals 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).

## **COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RESOURCES**

### **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 bank account reflected on 2018 or 2019 tax returns. 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).

### **Social Security Administration economic impact payments:**

The Social Security Administration announced that Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients will receive automatic economic impact payments no later than early May. More information is available at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### **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).

### **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 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 through May 2. For more, visit [www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](http://www.FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19). For those 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.

### **Florida Prepaid Plan:**

To provide financial flexibility during this difficult time, all Florida Prepaid Plan payments have been deferred until July 2020. Depending on how you currently make your payments, you may need to take action. Please visit <https://myfloridaprepaid.com/updates> for more information.

### **Free tax filing:**

Tax Day has been moved from April 15 to July 15. Through United Way's partnership with H&R Block, every household with a simple return can file their taxes free at [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com).

### **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.

### **SNAP program:**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to use their EBT cards to purchase groceries online. [Learn more.](#)

**Crisis support:**

If you are in need of crisis or mental health resources, counseling and/or emotional support during the COVID-19 pandemic, view the following link for a list of available [crisis resources.](#)

**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).

**Project: VITAL for seniors:**

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs has launched Project: VITAL (Virtual Inclusive Technology for All) which will utilize virtual technology to relieve the difficult symptoms of social isolation for residents in assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Learn more at [www.elderaffairs.org](http://www.elderaffairs.org).

**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/>.

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 daily between 5:30 and 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
- Hobe Sound Mobile Village, 11411 SE Federal Hwy., Hobe Sound

**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
- Wash hands often with soap and water (20 seconds or longer)
- 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. Call 772-287-1652 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

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](#). 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](#).

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