



COVID-19 Release #28

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Martin County increases public comment options for BOCC meetings during COVID-19

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners continues to hold regular board meetings at John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library to comply with CDC guidelines for social distancing. Meetings are open to the public and the Board has established two ways to allow members of the public to provide comment remotely– email and phone. These procedures will remain in place until the local state of emergency has expired. Details for both options are listed below:

Phone

- Call **772-221-1463**
- Commenters are asked to leave their name, phone number, meeting date and agenda item number for which they'd like to provide comment, and also to indicate if there are additional comments for general public comment periods at the beginning and/or end of the meeting.
- On the specified date, a county staff member will call the commenter back during public comment time. There is no set time for the comment periods to begin, so commenters may be called at any time during the meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. To avoid technical issues commenters are asked to refrain from having their phone on speaker and not to have the board meeting on in the background.
- Registration for a public comment call will be accepted until 8:45 a.m. the day of the meeting.
- Commenters will be given three minutes to provide verbal comment to the board.
- Commenters will be allowed to provide comment on each item only once, whether comments are in person, written or over the phone.

E-mail

- The fillable public comment form can be found at 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.

- more -

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INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Visit 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. 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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MAK/ADM



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