

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REOPENING PUBLIC BEACHES FOR ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES IN SARASOTA COUNTY

1. Declarations of Emergency to institute measures to prevent the spread of the recent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) have been issued by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Florida.

2. Public Health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and on March 16, 2020, the United States Centers for Disease Control amended their social distancing guidelines to suggest limiting any in-person gatherings to 10 people or less.

3. Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorizes Sarasota County to declare a state of local emergency, and further authorizes Sarasota County to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community during a declared emergency.

4. The Governor, through Executive Order 20-68, delegated to local governments the authority to order the closing of public beaches to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

5. The Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, through the Sarasota County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, has delegated to the County Administrator the authority to declare a state of local emergency in Sarasota County. Pursuant to that authority, I declared a state of local emergency in Sarasota County on March 15, 2020 and ordered the closure of public beaches in Sarasota County on March 21, 2020.

6. The Governor, through Executive Order 20-91, issued a “Safer at Home” order, which directed “all persons in Florida [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” to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. “Essential activities” under Executive Order 20-91 includes “participating in recreational activities (consistent with social distancing guidelines) such as walking, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming.”

7. On April 22, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, during its public meeting, authorized the County Administrator to reopen Sarasota County public beaches subject to restrictions consistent with Executive Order 20-91.

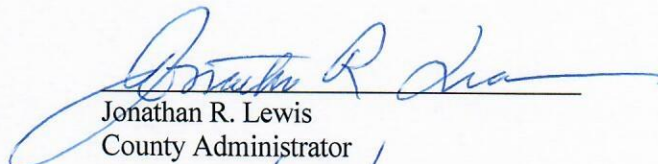
NOW, THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY SPECIFIED HEREIN, I, Jonathan R. Lewis, Sarasota County Administrator, do hereby order:

All Sarasota County public beaches shall be opened to the public beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, subject to the following limitations:

- A. The public shall have access to Sarasota County public beaches only for essential activities, as defined in Executive Order 20-91, which shall include walking, biking, fishing, running, surfing, or swimming.
- B. Essential activities shall be conducted in open spaces consistent with the CDC's social distancing guidelines to keep six feet separation between individuals.
- C. Essential activities shall be conducted consistent with Chapter 90 of the Code of Ordinances of Sarasota County, including, but not limited to, the prohibitions in Section 90-33 against fishing or surfing within designated swim areas.
- D. Parking lots for Sarasota County public beaches and amenities, like playgrounds, pavilions, and courts, shall remain closed.
- E. The public shall not bring items to Sarasota County public beaches inconsistent with essential activities, which include, but are not limited to, coolers, chairs, blankets, tents, umbrellas, or canopies.

This order, and the restrictions contained herein, shall remain in force until further notice.

Approved:


Jonathan R. Lewis
County Administrator
4/24/20
Date