



POARCH BAND of CREEK INDIANS

Current Status of Florida State Government Response to COVID 19 Pandemic

March 27, 2020 - On Monday, March 1, 2020 Florida Governor Ron DeSantis directed the Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency, and March 9 declared a State of Emergency in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Since this declaration, the Governor has issued several other Executive Orders affecting the lives of Floridians. A brief summary of those executive orders and other directives affecting the state have been listed below for your reference. As the Governor has attempted to take a “home rule” stance and allow local governments to decide what is best for their local communities, please refer to your local government websites in order to view the current status and limitations to any “stay at home” orders, curfews, or other guidance enacted by your local government.

Public Education

The Florida Department of Education has closed all public and private K-12 schools are closed through April 15, 2020. Local school boards on the county level will decide how/if they will proceed with virtual learning beginning on March 23 or if they will extend the school calendar year. Please refer to your local school board for county specific information. All state mandated testing such as Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) have been canceled for the current school year.

Many Colleges and Higher Education Institutes are closed for the Spring Semester. Some have announced closures extending completely, or partially through the summer semesters as well. Please refer to your individual institution for specific details.

Executive Orders

March 17th

Executive Order 20-68

Bars, Pubs, and Nightclubs are closed for 30 days effective March 17 at 5pm

Beach closures permitted at the discretion of local authorities

Restaurants limited to 50% occupancy (later closed to onsite consumption in following orders)

March 20th

Executive Order 20-69

Suspends requirement that local government bodies maintain a quorum in a public place, allowing the use of telephone and video conferencing while still allowing public access to comply with Sunshine laws

Executive Order 20-70

All Broward County and Palm Beach restaurants, bars, and food service-related businesses with seating for 10 people or more are ordered closed for on premise consumption. Does not apply to grocery stores, pharmacies etc. This closure is set to expire March 31 but may be extended upon the written request of the County Administrator.

Executive Order 20-71

Authorizes restaurants etc with consumption on premise alcohol license to sell sealed alcoholic beverages for consumption off premise. Certain limitations do exist.

Suspends all on-premise consumption at FL restaurants, to-go orders are allowed.

All gyms and fitness centers in the state are closed.

Executive Order 20-72

Non-essential and elective medical procedures are canceled.



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March 23rd

Executive Order 20-80

14 day self-quarantine ordered health screening for all persons entering the state of FL from an area with substantial community spread, including the New York tri state area, and entering the state through an airport.

March 24th

Executive Order 20-82

Further enforces Executive Order 20-80 to include self-isolation to all individuals entering the state from the referenced locations and methods of travel.

Executive Order 20-83

Directs the State Surgeon General and State Health Office to issue a public health advisory to all persons over 65 years of age urging them to stay home and to take other measures to protect themselves from exposure.

Public health advisory against all social or recreational gatherings of 10 people or more

Public health advisory urging people who can, to work remotely

The Division of Emergency Management has also issued the following Emergency Orders

DEM Order 20-004

Directs the Department of Education to seek guidance from CDC regarding closure and future decisions relating to public education.

Cancels statewide school and student assessment testing (FSA)

DEM Order 20-006

Prohibits all persons from visiting nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, long-term care facilities, and adult group homes except under certain circumstances.

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