

ST. JOHNS COUNTY EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020- 1

**AN EMERGENCY ORDER CLOSING ACCESS TO ALL PUBLIC BEACHES
SITUATED WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES OF ST. JOHNS
COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, ST. JOHNS COUNTY EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION NO. 2020-1 declared a state of local emergency due to the threat of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to spread among humans, which may pose a threat to public health and safety and cause a threat to the entire State of Florida, including St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, pursuant to section 252.38(3)(a)(5) of the Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners extended the state of local emergency for seven (7) additional days; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health (Department) continue to provide guidance to reduce the introduction of COVID-19 into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and Department report that COVID-19 is spread by close social contact, including among individuals who are currently asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to cause extensive concerns to the private citizens and public sectors in St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County continues to make efforts to address emergency conditions and assist affected citizens and properties; and

WHEREAS, as part of such efforts, St. Johns County seeks to reduce the threat of large scale exposure by eliminating the potential for residents, visitors and others to congregate in large gatherings on public beaches situated within the geographic boundaries of St. Johns County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County deems is necessary to make such efforts in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the emergency power vested in the County pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and the authority vested in the County Administrator pursuant to Section 6 of St. Johns County Ordinance No. 2019-40, it is hereby ordered:

1. Effective at 6:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 29, 2020, all public beaches situated within the geographical boundaries of St. Johns County, Florida shall be closed to public access. Any unauthorized person present on any public beach at any time before this prohibition is lifted shall be subject to prosecution or civil enforcement.
2. This Emergency Order shall be immediately effective.

DONE and ORDERED this 28 day of March, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Hunter S. Conrad

Hunter S. Conrad
County Administrator

ATTEST: Brandon Patty, Clerk

By: *Kelly Wilks*
Deputy Clerk

