



Frequently Asked Questions about Reopening the Public Beaches

1. I've heard the beaches are re-opening. Does that mean the beaches will return to normal?

Yes, but there are guidelines. Public beaches in Escambia County are open to groups of 10 or fewer persons, and individuals using the beaches must maintain a consistent six-foot distance between all persons from a different household.

2. I would like to take my young children to the beach. Am I required to maintain six feet of separation from them?

No. The six-foot rule does not apply to members of the same household. But members of the same household still must not gather in groups greater than 10 people.

3. When does this go into effect?

Friday, May 1, 2020, 30 minutes before sunrise. Public county beaches, including the sound side, Gulf side, Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key, will open 30 minutes before sunrise and close 30 minutes after sunset, daily.

4. When will beaches return to normal operation?

If there is continued progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Escambia County, then additional steps will be taken to loosen restrictions. If there is insufficient progress in reducing the spread of COVID-19, then the county may be forced to close the beaches again in the future.

5. Is the fishing pier open?

- Pensacola Gulfside pier will reopen Saturday, May 2, 2020
- Pier hours - open 30 min before sunrise, close - 30 min after sunset
- Pier will be accepting fishermen only. No pedestrians, at this time.
- Every fisherman will be 6 ft apart.
- The pier will be clearly marked with 6 ft markers to ensure everyone is able to follow the social distancing guidelines.
- Once the pier is at full capacity, new fishermen will be admitted as spots become available with fishermen leaving.
- A sign posted at the bait and tackle shop has the requirements for pier usage.
- A phone number is posted at the bait and tackle shop to alert pier management of noncompliance by fishermen. Noncompliance will end your fishing for the day.
- Two portalets at the base of the fishing pier ramp will be for the use of the fishermen.

6. Are the restroom facilities and pavilions open?

No; however, there will be portalets and handwashing stations provided.

7. Are tolls cashless to Pensacola Beach?

The county would like to remind residents that the toll on the Bob Sikes Bridge to Pensacola Beach is [all-electronic](#). The new all-electronic tolling system on the bridge went live on March 20, which was earlier than anticipated to adhere to social distancing for toll booth workers.

The toll remains \$1, and cash and change are no longer accepted at this location. Motorists can use either SunPass®, another interoperable transponder or be billed utilizing the TOLL-BY-PLATE system. TOLL-BY-PLATE customers will be charged a \$1 toll, plus a monthly \$2.50 administrative fee and will receive a bill by mail. Cash can be used at [SunPass kiosks](#) to replenish and pay TOLL-BY-PLATE invoices.

There are many ways to get to Pensacola Beach. Transponders are available at any retailer where [SunPass](#) and [E-Pass](#) are available. Other options for passes include the [NC Quick Pass](#), [Peach Pass](#) and tolling apps such as [PayTollo](#). The community can still walk, bike or ride [ECAT](#) bus routes 61 and 64 to Pensacola Beach.