

## **EMERGENCY ORDER EO 20-6**

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the State Health Officer and Surgeon General to declare a Public Health Emergency due to the discovery of COVID-19 in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a state of emergency for the United States of America effective March 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidance advising individuals to adopt social distancing measures and avoid gatherings of more than ten people; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-68 suspending the operation of bars, pubs and nightclubs, directing parties accessing public beaches to limit gatherings to no more than ten people and practice social distancing, and directing restaurant establishments to limit occupancy to 50%, with a minimum of 6-feet between patrons and parties of no more than ten; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-71 suspending on-premises food consumption in restaurants and food establishments and ordering the closure of all gymnasiums and fitness centers; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-83, directing the State Surgeon General and State Health Office to issue a public health advisory against all social or recreational gatherings of 10 or more people; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, political subdivisions are authorized to declare and enact a local state of emergency for a period of up to seven days, thereby waiving the procedures and formalities otherwise required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, and Section 37-35, Escambia County Code, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners declared a state of local emergency for Escambia County effective as of 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners extended the state of local emergency for Escambia County by Resolutions R2020-25, R2020-26, R2020-35, R2020-36, R2020-37, R2020-38 and R2020-39 until 1:59 p.m. on May 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses a health risk to the residents of Escambia County, particularly those who are elderly, immunosuppressed, or otherwise have high-risk medical conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, minimizing contact is necessary to avoid the risk of COVID-19 infection for the residents of Escambia County; and

**WHEREAS**, the measures implemented herein are narrowly tailored to protect the residents of Escambia County and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, by Board action during a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board approved Emergency Order 20-04 that closed public beaches, beach accessways and beachfront parks in unincorporated Escambia County; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners met in a special meeting to determine the issue of beach closures.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 37, Escambia County Code, the Board of County Commissioners hereby declares the following regarding Escambia County beaches, as set forth below:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and are incorporated herein.
2. Emergency Order 20-04 expires effective thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on Friday, May 1, 2020, and its terms are superseded by this Emergency Order.
3. Public beaches, public beach accessways and public beach parks in unincorporated Escambia County shall be open to the public thirty (30) minutes before sunrise and close thirty (30) minutes after sunset each day. These areas are closed to public access and use from thirty (30) minutes after sunset until thirty (30) minutes before sunrise.
4. At all times, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing guidelines shall be followed. Groups of people shall be limited to ten (10) people or fewer, with a minimum of six (6) feet of distancing between groups and between individuals not with the same immediate group.
5. The area beneath the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, as delineated by Escambia County lifeguard staff, shall be closed to the public at all times, except for areas specified for pedestrian access which are for moving foot traffic only.
6. Public pavilions shall be closed to the public.
7. This Order shall not apply to parks, beaches, and recreational facilities under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, or the federal government.
8. The Board of County Commissioners requests that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the National Park Service (NPS) reopen beaches and beach park areas under state and federal jurisdiction.
9. In accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 37, Article II, Sec. 37-42, Escambia County Code, any person violating any provision of this Order shall be prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed 60 days or by both

such fine and imprisonment.

10. This Order shall be effective as of 12:00 p.m. (CDT) on April 28, 2020, until further action by the Board of County Commissioners.

Adopted this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA


By: [Signature]  
Steven Barry, Chairman

ATTEST: PAM CHILDERS  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Date Executed

4/29/2020

[Signature]  
Deputy Clerk

The seal is circular with a double-lined border. The outer border contains the text "THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS" at the top and "ESCAMBIA CO., FL" at the bottom, separated by two stars. The inner circle contains the word "SEAL" in a bold, serif font.

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency.

By/Title: [Signature]  
Date: 4/28/2020



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**LAUREL M. LEE**  
Secretary of State

April 29, 2020

Honorable Pam Childers  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Escambia County  
Suite 130  
221 Palafox Place  
Pensacola, Florida 32502-5843

Attention: DeLana Allen-Busbee

Dear Ms. Childers:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, this will acknowledge receipt of your electronic copy of Escambia County Emergency Order EO-20-6, which was filed in this office on April 29, 2020.

Sincerely,

Ernest L. Reddick  
Program Administrator

ELR/lb