The City of Dunedin continues to monitor COVID-19 (a novel coronavirus), which is a worldwide pandemic event. In an effort to keep everyone up-to-date, we will work closely with Pinellas County and our public health partners to provide you with accurate information and guidance as events unfold. In addition to weekly city situation reports, we ask that you educate yourselves and your families with confirmed information from reputable national and local agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health.

*New Information is designated in dark red.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- As of 11:00 a.m., July 23rd, there are 389,868 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Florida with 22,644 resident hospitalizations and 5,632 deaths. In Pinellas County, the number of confirmed cases rose from 12,368 confirmed cases of COVID-19 last week to 14,371 cases this week, with 1,235 hospitalizations and 364 deaths, increases of 176 and 69, respectively. The number of positive cases in the Dunedin area increased from 301 to 352. Additional information about all Florida cases can be found at: [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/96dd742462124fa0b38dcedb9b25e429](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/96dd742462124fa0b38dcedb9b25e429). For Pinellas County and Dunedin area information, click here.
- This Thursday, Florida set another one-day record of 173 reported deaths.
- 1.4 million U.S. workers filed for new unemployment benefits during the week ending July 18, an increase of 109,000 from the previous week. This is the first increase in the past 16 weeks. Approximately 13 million people currently claim unemployment assistance under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program which is scheduled to expire on July 31st.
- According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as of July 21st, Florida has reportedly now paid 1,771,241 claimants a total of more than $11 billion in unemployment claims; this number includes more than $8.5 billion from federal funding sources.
- As of 07/16, Pinellas County has paid individuals and families $2,582,927 under the CARES Financial Assistance program. There 3,317 cases in progress with an estimated value of $4,079,585.
- The application period for Pinellas CARES Small Business Grants Program ended on June 30, 2020. As of July 22, 2020:
  - 5,222 completed applications have been received.
  - 3,144 checks have been issued.
  - $15.720 million has been received by eligible businesses with approved applications.
- Pinellas County Schools has posted information and their plans for reopening to provide three options for students. This information can be found on their reopening webpage: [https://www.pcsb.org/reopening](https://www.pcsb.org/reopening).
- A new face mask distribution site in Tarpon Springs is now open. Location: Union Academy Family Center, 401 Dr. MLK Jr. Hours: Monday through Friday from 10 to 3. For info, call (727) 934-5881 Ext. 10.
- The County and area chambers of commerce began distribution of masks to local businesses from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg on June 20th.
- On July 21, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended the County’s State of Local Emergency declaration for COVID-19 through July 31st with no changes.
• Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections is losing a significant number of its poll workers due to COVID and is seeking help for the August Primary and November election. Volunteer hours of work: 5:30 a.m. through the election and cleanup on Election Day. All volunteers must take a class, which is offered during the day and one night a week. Contact Tim Closterman or Dustin Chase at (727) 464-4988.

WHAT THE CITY IS DOING:

LATEST NEWS:

• The Dunedin Chamber of Commerce Business Assistance Program in collaboration with the City of Dunedin Economic Development & Housing Department/CRA is offering in person assistance on Thursday, July 30th. Go to https://www.dunedingov.com/city-departments/economic-development for more information.
• The City’s state of emergency will be extended to Friday, July 31st.

LAST WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS:

• On June 7th, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-166, extending Florida’s State of Emergency through September 5, 2020.
• The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended the County’s State of Local Emergency declaration for COVID-19 through July 24th with no changes.
• On Aug. 1, 2020, Pinellas County Utilities will resume termination of utility services for nonpayment and will recommence charging fees for late payments.
• Information on testing can be found at https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/testing/.
• For a list of locations to get free masks, go to https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/free-face-masks/.
• The Pinellas County Information Center (CIC) is available to answer questions about the County’s new ordinance at (727) 464-4333, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until 2pm.
• The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now offering a Self-Checker at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html.

OTHER COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

HOW COVID-19 SPREADS:
• COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes.
• These droplets may land on objects and surfaces.
• Other people may contract COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:
• Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath.
• Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure.
• Most people recover from the COVID-19 without needing special treatment.
The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness.

If you suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. You or your healthcare provider should immediately notify the Florida Department of Health.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 or need to stay home to care for a sick family member, please contact Human Resources for Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) paperwork and further instructions. FMLA will protect your position while you are out of work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS:

- Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing**
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- **Always** wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
  - Put your used tissue in a waste basket.
  - If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice Social Distancing, which includes **staying home from work when you are ill**.
- **Please Note**: If you’re experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or have traveled to impacted areas, call DOH-Pinellas, (727) 824-6900.

In addition to weekly city situation reports, we ask that you educate yourselves and your families with confirmed information from reputable national and local agencies such as the CDC and Florida Department of Health. A list of resources is below.

**TRUSTED RESOURCES:**


- The Pinellas County Website: [http://covid19.pinellascounty.org/](http://covid19.pinellascounty.org/)

- COVID-19 Prevention Tips & Fact Sheet:
PAST CITY NEWS:

• On July 2, 2020, the City Commission approved Resolution 20-20, requiring face coverings in city facilities with specific exemptions. The approved resolution will be available at https://www.dunedingov.com/live-work-play/phase-one-re-opening-updates.

• In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 20-150 the Dunedin City Commission will continue to meet virtually.

• City of Dunedin Boards and Committees may meet virtually as needed to move a project forward.

• The Dunedin Downtown Summer Market will be held in the Parking Lot between the Blur and History Museum, beginning on Saturday, July 11th. CDC guidelines will be in effect! The Market will be held only on Saturdays, through October 31, 2020 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, and will feature live music. Visit www.TampaBayMarkets.com for more information.

• The MLK Recreation Center and playground will reopen for summer camp on Monday, July 6th.

• The City of Dunedin will continue to suspend all disconnections of water, wastewater, and solid waste services for nonpayment – effective March 18, 2020, through July 31, 2020.
  ➢ Late fees will not be assessed to utility bills with a bill date on or after March 18, 2020, until further notice.
  ➢ The Utility Billing office (located at the MLK Recreation Center) remains closed to walk-in visitors until further notice. Utility Billing is available by phone (727) 298-3024 or via email at ubill@dunedinfl.net, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• The City Commission directed the City Attorney to draft a resolution requiring face coverings in city facilities with specific exemptions. The City Commission will consider the resolution at its meeting on July 2, 2020. Should the resolution be adopted, it will be available at www.dunedingov.com.

• Most City Buildings will be closed on July 3rd in observance of July 4th.

• Parks & Recreation News:
  ➢ The Skate Park remains closed until further notice.
  ➢ The MLK Recreation Center is currently closed for sanitization and duct work cleaning after 2 employees who work in the building tested positive for COVID-19. The adjoining playground and Skate Park are also closed until further notice. The employees are expected to make a full recovery and will be subject to the City’s COVID-19 Return to Work protocols before being allowed back to work.
  ➢ Outdoor fitness class rentals resumed; instructors must provide plan for safe operations, and no equipment sharing.
  ➢ On Monday, June 8th, Fitness Center capacity increased to 15.
  ➢ Reopened Summer Camp registration to increase group size for Kids Camp to 15 total: 1 Staff, 1 Teen Leader, plus 13 campers.
  ➢ Stirling Soccer’s plan for operations was approved; resumed activity at Jerry lake Complex.
Pipers resumed practice outside at the Community Center on Wednesday, June 10th.

As of Saturday, June 13th, Saturday Fitness Center hours will be 8am-12pm.

Effective Monday, June 15th:
- Outdoor fitness classes will be held on Stage or back lawn at the Community Center.
- Teen Leadership Program will resume for the remainder of the summer. One Teen Leader per group at Pre-K, Kids and Teen Camps.

Stirling Skate Park will re-open on Wednesday, June 17th, M-F from 10am-6pm.

No athletic field or pavilion rentals at this time.

No outdoor archery at this time.

**Library News:**
- The Dunedin Library is open Monday to Friday – 10am-noon, 1pm - 3pm and 4 pm - 6pm. The library closes twice a day for 1 hour for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Curbside Pick-Up is offered Monday – Friday, 1-4pm.
- The Library Book Drops are open Monday – Friday. They are closed on the weekend.
- The Branch Library book drop at the entrance of the Community Center is open 24/7.
- Interlibrary Loan program is available – call 727-298-3080 ext. 1707.
- Homebound Delivery service is limited - call 727-298-3080 ext. 1707 for more information.

**From Economic Development:**
- Since the grant application opened on Monday, May 4, Pinellas County has received 4,655 completed applications. The County has issued 1,552 checks totaling $7.76 million to eligible businesses with approved applications. Our team is reviewing each application and will issue grants to eligible businesses as quickly as possible. The application period has been extended until June 30, 2020. All applications submitted before the deadline will be considered. For more information, go to [https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascaresbusiness/](https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/pinellascaresbusiness/).
- The Fitness Center at Dunedin Community Center is now open at limited capacity. For hours of operation and more information, go to [https://www.dunedingov.com/Home/Components/News/News/5357/38?backlist=%2f](https://www.dunedingov.com/Home/Components/News/News/5357/38?backlist=%2f).
- The Kiwanis Fit Zone, located at Weaver Park, is reopening Monday, June 1.
- Highlander Pool is now open for lap swim and open swim only, by reservation. Click here for more information.
- City Summer Camps will open on June 1. Very limited space is available, with some camps already full. For more information or registration questions, please call Dunedin Parks & Recreation at 727-812-4530.
- City of Dunedin public playgrounds will reopen Monday, June 1; however, due to summer camps, the playgrounds at the Community Center and MLK, Jr. Recreation Center will remain closed to the general public Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.
- All other recreational facilities, including the Dunedin Community Center, MLK, Jr. Recreation Center, Hale Senior Activity Center and Kiwanis Sprayground remain closed to the general public.
The Dunedin Public Library will reopen to the public on Monday, June 1, 2020 at a limited capacity, according to state guidelines. Library hours will be as follows: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - noon; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; 4 -6 p.m.

- Patrons will be expected to follow the CDC’s social distancing guidelines of staying 6 feet apart from others that are not in your group. Facemasks are recommended.
- Patrons may use public internet computers for up to 30 minutes per day. The meeting room, study rooms and youth program room will be closed and no reservations will be accepted. There will be no in-person programming and virtual programming will be offered.
- The library will be closing periodically throughout each day for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Curbside pickup will be available – Monday – Friday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Call 727-298-3080, ext. 1707 or email at dunedinlibrary@dunedinfl.net to request items for curbside pickup. If you receive a hold notification and wish to use curbside service, please call 727-298-3080 ext. 1713 and your items will be brought to you at curbside.
- Outside curbside book drops will be open Monday – Friday for library materials return only.

All City events through May and June are cancelled;

The Downtown Market season at Pioneer Park has ended, but is expected to reopen in November. There are plans for a possible Summer Market starting in July by the parking lot adjacent to the Blur. Stay tuned.

The City worked with local downtown merchants to place barricades to allow outdoor seating in adjacent parking spaces until 11:00 p.m. each night. The sidewalks remain available to pedestrian traffic.

The City of Dunedin has suspended all disconnections of water, wastewater, and solid waste services for nonpayment – effective March 18, 2020, through at least June 30, 2020.

- Late fees will not be assessed to utility bills with a bill date on or after March 18, 2020, until further notice.
- The Utility Billing office (located at the MLK Recreation Center) remains closed to walk-in visitors until further notice. Utility Billing is available by phone 727.298.3024 or via email at ubill@dunedinfl.net, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The City Manager extended the City’s state of emergency to Friday, May 29th.

The Fitness Center at Dunedin Community Center will reopen on Tuesday, May 26th at limited capacity. For hours of operation and more information, go to https://www.dunedingov.com/Home/Components/News/News/5357/38?backlist=%2f.

All other recreational facilities, including the Dunedin Community Center, MLK, Jr. Recreation Center, Hale Senior Activity Center, City playgrounds and the Kiwanis Sprayground remain closed to the general public.

All City events through May and June are cancelled; the Downtown Market is expected to open in June.

Highlander Pool is now open on May 18th for lap swim and open swim only, by reservation. Click here for more information.

The Dunedin Public Library has a Phased Reopening Plan following all CDC, Federal, State, County and City guidelines. Curbside Pick Up began on Monday, May 18th. Patrons can pick up books and other library materials Monday–Friday from 1:00PM–4:00PM. To place a request, call (727) 298-3080 ext. 1707. Limit 5 items per card. You may only request items
The City Manager extended the City’s state of emergency to Friday, May 15th.

Effective May 6th, the City returned to Condition Yellow as detailed in the City’s Epidemic/Pandemic Guidelines.

Employees that had been sent home during the Safer at Home order began returning to work as of May 6th; the majority of employees will return on May 11th, following social distancing guidelines and using face masks/coverings and gloves as needed.

City facilities remain closed to the Public; a partial reopening of some facilities is expected on May 18th.

All City events are cancelled for the month of May.

The Downtown Market remains closed until further notice.

The City is coordinating with Pinellas County Emergency Management, Florida-Department of Health (DOH), and other partners to ensure we have the most up to date information.

The City’s Epidemic and Pandemic Guidelines booklet was distributed to all City employees. Per the booklet the City is now in Condition Yellow (page 7).

On March 16th, the City Manager directed the cancellation of all Boards & Committee meetings and any associated events until further notice.

On Tuesday, March 17th, The City Commission approved the cancellation of Special Events
in the City until the end of April. All structured programs at City facilities were also cancelled until further notice.

- The City Manager authorized the closure of all city buildings to the general public beginning on Thursday, March 18th with the Library, the William Hale Senior Center, the Community Center (including the Fitness Center), the MLK Center, Highlander Pool and the Kiwanis Sprayground. The remaining City buildings and departments will also be closed to walk-ins as of Monday, March 23rd. The Fire Stations and Fire Administration building are also closed to walk-ins.
- Spring Camp closed at the end of the day on Friday, March 20th.
- The Annual Employee Recognition Picnic has been postponed until later this year.
- The Communications Team continues to encourage use of the **Wipe it Down Initiative**, which asks that all city employees take 5 minutes at the start of each day to wipe down/sanitize all city equipment, workspaces and public areas.
- The City continues to send regular notifications to residents through the City’s website and social media.
- The City Manager authorized the closing of all City playgrounds in support of the County’s "Safer at Home" Order by the end of the day on Wednesday, March 25th.
- The City Manager approved the City’s Employee Temporary Telework Policy with an effective date of Wednesday, March 25th to allow employees in eligible positions to work from home. Department Directors have submitted plans to the City Manager’s Office which will gradually reduce the number of non-essential employees in the workplace, and facilitate those who are not able to telework to either work in facilities that allow for social distancing, or to go home.
- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or HR 6201), signed into law by the President requires certain employers, including the City, to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1 through December 31, 2020. City Staff created procedures and applicable pay codes for implementation at the City.
- On April 2, 2020, as detailed in the City’s Epidemic/Pandemic Guidelines, the City went to Condition Red, which activated the City of Dunedin Disaster Pay Policy. In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order, non-essential employees will be working from home, with limited commuting to/from work authorized on an as needed basis. Employees whose positions are essential to ensure the continued operation of the City shall continue working onsite according to assigned schedules/shifts.
- As of April 2, 2020, the following City facilities/parks are now closed: All Recreation Centers (Community Center, Hale Senior Activity Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center); all Aquatic Facilities (Pool and Sprayground); all Shelter Rentals; the Causeway Beach/Rotary Park; all Playgrounds and the Fit Zone at Weaver Park. Other facilities that are now closed: Marina Beach Access Road (slip renters on the west wall are still able to access their boats on foot); Marina Pier; Weaver Park (all of the west side) including the pier, and Weaver Park parking lots.
- The City will continue to scale back operations so that only essential employees will report to work in order to maintain the necessary operations at the City and comply with the Governor’s Safer at Home order. City personnel who are sent home are either teleworking or completing training online.
- All Boards & Committee meetings and any associated events remain cancelled until further notice.
• Special events and the Downtown Market remain cancelled/closed until further notice.
• Economic Development Staff are working with the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce to maintain updated information on restaurants in Dunedin that offer take out or gift certificates. Library staff will be assisting in this effort by contacting Dunedin restaurants via phone or email. Once the database is updated, Staff will also contact retail merchants. The goal is to assist Dunedin businesses by providing an online resource to potential customers. The updated restaurant list will be available at http://www.dunedinfl.com/gift-cards-offers.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

Testing:

• A Face covering distribution location is now open in Oldsmar. For a list of locations, go to: https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/free-face-masks/.
• A drive-thru, community-based COVID-19 testing site opened yesterday at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts Mahaffey Theater Parking Garage.
• Testing will be available for individuals regardless of symptoms. The test site is drive-thru only.
• Testing will take place Tuesday through Saturday each week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
• BayCare opened a testing site at Tropicana Field on Monday June 29th; more information on testing can be found at https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/testing/.
• Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHC) is now offering COVID-19 testing without restrictions to Pinellas County residents at three locations. Residents do not need to have symptoms or be a CHC patient.
  o Testing sites will provide same day walk-ups and drive ups, but appointments are recommended to decrease wait times. Make an appointment by calling 727-824-8181 and selecting option 0.
  o The following testing sites will be open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
    • 707 East Druid Road, Clearwater, FL 33756
    • 7550 43rd Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
    • 1344 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 (Johnnie Ruth Clarke Center)
  o A condensed electronic registration will be required at testing sites. Residents are asked to bring a valid ID.
• CVS Minute Clinic has opened testing locations throughout the country. Go to https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing to find a testing site near you.

PAST LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS:

• On July 7th, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners approved additional funding to support an even broader range of individuals and local businesses affected by COVID-19. For more information, click here.
• In the week ending July 4th, an additional 1.3 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits, less than previously expected. Almost 50 million Americans have filed initial jobless claims.
According to a report from the Governor’s Communications Director, Florida has reportedly now paid out more than $9 billion in unemployment claims; this number includes $6.6 billion from federal funding sources. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has paid almost 1.66 million claimants as of Tuesday. Those paid represent about two-thirds of the 2.49 million unique claims submitted to the state.
  
  o Also in Florida, 100,000 new unemployment applications were filed this past week.

A Face covering distribution location is now open in Oldsmar. For a list of locations, go to: https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/free-face-masks/.

A drive-thru, community-based COVID-19 testing site opened yesterday at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts Mahaffey Theater Parking Garage.

Testing will be available for individuals regardless of symptoms. The test site is drive-thru only.

Testing will take place Tuesday through Saturday each week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Information on testing can be found at https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/testing/.

On July 7th, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners approved additional funding to support an even broader range of individuals and local businesses affected by COVID-19. For more information, click here.

As of Thursday, 06/25/20, 6,358 Pinellas County CARES Small Business Grant applications have been submitted or in the process of submission. 1,495 are under review, 2,600 are pending final audit for payment or have been paid, and 1,567 have been denied. The total grant funding that has been distributed is $11.1 Million.

As of Thursday, 06/25/20, Pinellas County has paid $1,061,495 to individuals and families under the CARES Financial Assistance program.

Pinellas County residents impacted by COVID-19 now have until July 7 to apply for financial help through the Pinellas CARES assistance program. For more information, go to https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/where-to-get-help/ or text COVIDCARES to 898211.

The Governor’s Executive Order 20-159 extended Mortgage Foreclosure and Eviction Relief until August 1, 2020.

A list of FAQs about the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners’ emergency ordinance requiring face coverings in most indoor public places, go to https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/face-covering-faq/.
  
  o The County is also offering free masks at a number of locations. Residents are advised to call ahead. Go to https://go.activecalendar.com/pinellascounty/site/pressrelease/event/free-face-mask-distribution-locations-announced/.

  o Additional sites have now been opened; for a list of the new locations, click here.

According to the Department of Health, Florida had its highest single-day spike of 9,585 cases on Saturday, which broke this past Friday's record of 8,942 new cases. Florida averaged approximately 38 deaths per day last week, according to state health officials.

2-1-1 Tampa Bay has received 79,880 total contacts across phone, text, and web page views.

On June 23rd, the County Commission passed an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings in most indoor public places. The ordinance also encourages restaurants and bars to implement new safety and anti-crowding measures.

  o The countywide ordinance went into effect on Wednesday, June 24, at 5 p.m. For more
information on the ordinance, click here. For a list of FAQs about the ordinance, go to https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/face-covering-faq/.

- The County is also offering free masks at specific locations: https://go.activecalendar.com/pinellascounty/site/pressrelease/event/free-face-mask-distribution-locations-announced/.
- The Pinellas County Information Center (CIC) is now available to answer questions about the County’s new ordinance at (727) 464-4333, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. until noon.

- On June 23rd, Governor DeSantis extended his Executive Order to allow for the continuation of virtual public meetings until August 1, 2020.
- On June 26th, the Department of Business and Professional Regulations directed all bars in Florida to suspend sales of alcoholic beverages on premises and only allow the purchase of alcohol in sealed containers to be consumed off premises. Go to http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/os/documents/EO_2020-09.pdf for more information.
- As of Wednesday, 5/27/20, Pinellas County has paid individuals and families $399,734 under the CARES Financial Assistance program. 1,385 cases are currently under review with an estimated value of $1,595,825.
- 2-1-1 Tampa Bay has received 24,415 phone calls, 9,595 text messages, and 16,436 web page views.
- As of Thursday, 5/28/20, 5,379 Pinellas County CARES Small Business Grant applications have been submitted or in the process of submission. 323 are under review, 821 are pending final audit for payment or have been paid, and 415 have been denied.
- Pinellas County has resumed some in-person services that had been suspended due to COVID-19. Click here for more information.
- On June 2nd, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended its State of Local Emergency declaration for COVID-19 to June 12th.
- On June 3th, Governor DeSantis signed Executive Order Number 20-139, Phase 2: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery with an effective date of June. Highlights of the Order include:
  - Citizens are encouraged to avoid groups larger than 50 people
  - Senior citizens and individuals with a significant underlying medical condition are strongly encouraged to avoid crowds and take measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19
  - In-store retail businesses, including gyms and fitness centers, should maintain appropriate social distancing and sanitation protocols
  - Opening of bars and bar areas in restaurants; restaurants and bars may operate at 50% of indoor capacity. Outdoor seating allowed with social distancing
  - Opening of movie theaters, concert houses, bowling alleys, playhouses and arcades at 50% of building capacity
  - Personal services (e.g. acupuncture, tattooing, etc.)
  - Routine COVID-19 testing for long-term care facilities employees.

- The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended its State of Local Emergency declaration for COVID-19 to June 5 and lifted rules pertaining to public beaches, shared pools and playgrounds that exceeded the state’s requirements. Click here for detailed information on the lifted rules.
- To date, Pinellas County has helped 156 households impacted by COVID-19 pay for emergency overdue rent, mortgage and utilities through the Pinellas CARES programs, with
another 880 cases in progress expected to cover more than $1 million.

- The application deadline for the Pinellas CARES financial assistance programs for individuals and families has been extended to June 30. A separate program providing one-time grants for qualifying small businesses will also remain open for new applications through June 1. Go to https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/where-to-get-help/ for more information.

- Pinellas County received approval from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) for short-term rentals to resume accepting reservations and check-ins for vacation rentals, effective immediately.

- Fifty States are either entirely or partially open for the first time in nearly two months; thirty states, from Maine to Montana have instituted either mandatory or recommended 14-day quarantine for visitors.

- On May 18th, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-123, which modifies Executive Order 20-120 to “full Phase 1”. Among the modifications are:
  - Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity
  - Gyms and fitness centers will be allowed to reopen with modifications for increased public safety. The modifications include:
    - Operating up to 50% capacity
    - Self-sanitizing machines and surfaces after use.
  - Other changes in operations for facilities in the Full Phase I plan include:
    - Restaurant and food establishments:
      - May increase indoor capacity to 50% with proper social distancing
      - No seating at bar counters where alcohol is served
      - Outdoor seating encouraged.
  - Museums and libraries:
    - May operate up to 50% capacity, if permitted by local governments.
  - Movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys, arcades, playhouses, and casinos may reopen.
  - Bars, pubs and nightclubs that make less than 50% of revenue from food sales remain closed.

- The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended its current state of emergency to May 29th, and reaffirmed its commitment to continue following state guidance.

- Pinellas County now has a Data Dashboard that provides information relevant to the County. The dashboard is available at https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/dashboard/.

- In Pinellas County, beaches and pools remain open on a limited basis; playgrounds are still closed, except those used by daycare centers and camps.

- For more information on re-openings, visit https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/state-of-florida-pinellas-county-guidance-for-phase-1-reopening/.

- On May 11, President Trump announced additional efforts to ensure that every state, territory and tribe has the resources they need to meet their testing goals.
  - The president announced that states, territories and tribes would be receiving $11 billion in funds from the CARES Act to help governors meet their testing goals.
  - Throughout the month of May, FEMA and HHS will be delivering 12 million swabs to states nationwide.
  - The Administration has partnered with national retail companies as well as local independent pharmacies to increase access to testing. By the end of this week, more
than 300 retail testing sites will be operational to serve Americans in 47 states and D.C., prioritizing access in underserved communities.

- On May 9th, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-120, allowing for the reopening of barbershops, cosmetology salons, and specialty cosmetology salons on Monday, May 11, "provided they adopt social distancing and precautionary measures."
- The Sheriff's Office Call Center TIPS line, 727-582-TIPS (8477), which was activated to receive reports of violations of the County's “COVID-19 – Safer at Home” Order will close on Saturday May 16th at 11:00 PM.
- Honeymoon Island and Caladesi Park re-opened on Monday, May 4th at 50% capacity.
- The Trump Administration issued new guidelines, Opening Up America Again, to enable individual states to reopen in three phases using a deliberate, data-driven approach.
  - Under these guidelines, States will reopen one step at a time, rather than all at once. The guidelines will empower Governors to tailor the phased reopening to address the situation in their State.
  - Governors can begin phased openings at the Statewide or county-by-county level.
- On Tuesday, April 28th, The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners voted to allow the reopening of common area pools as of today at 6 a.m., and the conditional reopening of public beaches and public beach parking areas beginning Monday, May 4th, at 7 a.m. Childcare facility playgrounds may reopen; however public playgrounds remain closed.
  - Public beach visitors must adhere to CDC social distancing guidelines. Groups of more than 10 are prohibited, and people not from the same family must stay at least 6 feet apart.
  - Public beach restrooms must meet CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfection. Anyone using public restrooms should be prepared to bring their own hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use in these facilities.
  - Concessions, including snack bar and kayak and chair rentals, will remain closed pending new direction from the state regarding nonessential businesses.
  - Citizens are required to continue to practice social distancing, hand washing and other good hygiene habits to protect themselves and others. Those over age 65 and/or having underlying health conditions are encouraged to take even more steps to minimize their risk of exposure.
  - Sand Key Park, Fort De Soto Park and all of Fred Howard Park will reopen with the beaches.
  - Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance will support eligible individuals and families who have lost their jobs or significant income due to COVID-19 with one-time assistance paying overdue rent, mortgage and utility bills. Payments will be disbursed directly to the utility, mortgage or other eligible agency to which the individual bills are due. Additional information about how to apply will be posted at See https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/business/pinellas-cares/pinellas-cares-financial-assistance/.
  - Phase One allows restaurants to offer outdoor seating with six feet of space between tables and indoor seating at 25% capacity.
  - No changes for bars, movie theaters, gyms and personal services such as hairdressers and barbers; they remain closed.
  - Phase One also maintains current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including vulnerable individuals continuing social distancing while in public, avoiding groups of 10 or more and using face masks in public if unable to maintain six feet distancing. Click on https://thefloridachannel.org/wp-content/uploads/429GovPresentation.pdf to view the Governor’s PowerPoint presentation. For a list of Frequently Asked Questions, go to https://floridapolitics.com/archives/330505-answers-to-frequently-asked-questions-about-gov-ron-desantis-plan-to-re-open-florida.

- On May 1st, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended its current state of emergency to May 8th, and also issued additional guidance to align with the Governor’s Executive Order.
  - Retail stores that were previously closed may now re-open and operate at 25% of stated building capacity. This includes pet grooming and car washes. Residents are urged to wear masks at indoor businesses such as grocery and retail stores.
  - Museums and libraries may reopen, also at 25% capacity, but programming and events are still not permitted. Cities have the right to decide whether to open.
  - Large gatherings for sporting, leisure or similar activities at venues, arenas and stadiums are still prohibited.

- **Social Distancing:** Public education materials are being prepared to encourage residents to reduce crowds in public parks and on the Pinellas Trail.
- On Monday, March 10th, the Governor declared a State of Emergency. The state-wide declaration of emergency expands protection against price gouging on face masks and cleaning products. Suspected price gouging on those products can be reported to the Florida Attorney General at (866) 966-7226.
- On Friday, March 13th, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners declared a Local State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.
- On March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump and the CDC issued "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidance advising individuals to avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people and advising older persons and persons with serious underlying health conditions to stay home and away from others.
- On Tuesday, March 17, Governor Ron DeSantis and Pinellas County Administrator Barry Burton issued executive orders restricting restaurant occupancy and the hours in which establishments can serve alcohol.
- On March 18th, the Senate approved H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which was then signed into law by the President. HR6201 is expected to go into effect on April 2nd through December 31, 2020. This legislation expands the Family Medical Leave Act, allowing eligible employees impacted by COVID-19 to use paid leave authorized by the Federal Government. Staff is currently disseminating the new leave requirements, how to implement and communicate to employees.
- Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-83 on March 24th, directing the State Surgeon and State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory to all persons over 65 years of age as well as those who have a serious underlying medical condition that makes them at high risk of infection from COVID-19. The advisory urges those in either category to stay home and to take the necessary measures to limit their risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- On Wednesday, March 25th, the Board of County Commissioners passed the “COVID-19 – Safer at Home” Order, Resolution No. 20-20 and Resolution No. 20-19 with a provision for Sheriff to post a notice on all retail establishments. The intent of the order is to reduce crowds. Businesses may remain open but need to follow CDC guidelines for social
distancing. For more information, see the link below for FAQs. The Commissioners also extended the local state of emergency, beginning as of 3 p.m. today.

- On April 1, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-91, Safer At Home, which includes the following provisions:
  - Senior citizens and individuals with significant underlying medical conditions are ordered to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
  - An order for 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.

The order goes into effect as of 12:01 am on April 3, 2020 through April 30, 2020 unless extended by a subsequent executive order.

- The Board of County Commissioners met on 4/2/2020 and passed the following resolutions:
  - Resolution 20-21: Extension of the local state of emergency
  - Resolution 20-22: Subsequent extensions of the emergency resolution, as necessary, are to be executed by the chairperson or County Administrator.

- On Thursday, April 16, President Trump unveiled the Guidelines for Opening Up America Again! Plan. The guidelines were developed by the top medical experts from across the Government using verifiable metrics. These guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response.

- On Tuesday, April 21, The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners extended the Local State of Emergency declaration through May 1. Public beaches, pools and playgrounds remain closed.

- Florida Schools will continue distance learning and remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

PAST NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

- As of March 18th, seven BayCare Urgent Care Centers will host community COVID19 drive through screening/collection centers throughout the Tampa Bay area. The centers that will only be dedicated to screening/collecting COVID-19 patients are Carillon, Countryside, New Port Richey, Bloomingdale, Haines City, New Tampa, and MLK. All COVID19 screening at these BUC clinics will be outside. For location addresses go to https://baycare.org/coronavirus/covid-19-testing-centers. Note: Per BayCare, There is no charge to use the BayCare COVID19 screening, but you will be asked for your insurance carrier name. Testing is available Monday-Friday 8am-5pm; BayCare recommends going early. Keep in mind that not everyone will get tested; you must meet a set of screening criteria in order to be tested.

- Based on direction of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Pinellas County Schools will be closed from Monday, March 16 through Wednesday, April 15.

- Pinellas County School Board: continues to communicate w/ families, through posted COVID webpage, Direct email, phone, website, and social media.

- From the Department of Health: Vulnerable populations (i.e. persons age 60 years and
above, diabetes patients, and anyone with pre-existing respiratory issues) are being advised to avoid groups, stay home when possible, and avoid crowds.

- The CDC recommends that travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all travel worldwide. Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues should avoid situations that put them at increased risk for more severe disease. This entails avoiding crowded places, and avoiding non-essential travel such as long plane trips.
- Many public events and meetings have been cancelled, postponed, or are being held online. Please contact the event organizers for the latest information. Here is a helpful link with many cancelled gatherings around the area: www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/03/12/coronavirus-event-cancellations-in-tampa-bay/.
- Florida Attorney General's Price gouging hotline is activated. Residents can call (866)-9NO-SCAM to cover essential commodities covered by Florida's price gouging law under COVID-19.
- The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office has a phone line dedicated to COVID-19 related complaints so that they can respond promptly while violations are active; that number is (727)-582-8477.
- The CDC is now recommending the use of face masks in places where it may be hard to social distance (e.g. the grocery store); however, manufactured face masks are still very hard to find. Quite a number of people are either making cloth masks or using makeshift masks, which is better than nothing. The CDC also provided information on the proper way to wear, remove and maintain cloth face masks, as well as a link to a YouTube video that shows how to make a cloth mask in 45 seconds. For more information, go to the following links:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGSY3mEMhoE.

CONTACT RESOURCES
- The Pinellas County Citizen Information Center (CIC) closed operations on May 22nd.
- The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Beach Capacity Dashboard is currently inactive.
- Florida residents can text FLCOVID19 to 888-777 to receive updates on COVID-19 information. They will then be prompted to submit their zip code to receive updates on a specific zip code.
- Florida Attorney General's Price gouging hotline is activated. Residents can call (866)-9NO-SCAM to cover essential commodities covered by Florida’s price gouging law under COVID-19.
- Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHC) is now offering COVID-19 testing without restrictions to Pinellas County residents at three locations. For more information, visit https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/testing/.

STATE/NATIONAL RESOURCES
• Governor’s Executive Order 20-120

• Providing Testing Resources
  o https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/united-states-built-worlds-leading-coronavirus-testing-system/

• Guidelines for Opening Up America Again
  o https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/

• Additional Sources
  o *https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/06/18/unemployment-claims-coronavirus/
  o US Bureau of Labor Statistics