



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



COVID-19 Updates

Hello,

I hope you're managing through these difficult times. Like many parents, my wife Jess and I are trying to work from home while simultaneously keeping our children entertained. As I type this, my 6-year-old Madeline is watching *Hotel Transylvania* for the fourth time this week.(!) Later tonight I'll work on her reading/math lesson plan for tomorrow.

Leon County's Emergency Information Portal continues to be an excellent one-stop source of coronavirus-related information. It's updated every afternoon, so click [here](#) for the latest news on local COVID-19 testing, closings, Governor's executive orders, etc.

If you have questions or suggestions after reading Leon County's Emergency Information Portal or the info below, please don't hesitate to contact me at MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov or my Chief of Staff, Jodi Wilkof, at WilkofJ@leoncountyfl.gov.

Stay safe and take care of each other. #TallahasseeStrong

Rick Minor

Commissioner, Leon County District 3

MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, please ask them to sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you.

COVID-19 **Stay Informed.**



To date, Leon County has had three positive cases of COVID-19 and it is anticipated that more positive

cases will be confirmed in our area. That is why it is so important that we all act together now to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Accordingly, we continue to stress that the best way to stop the spread of any disease like COVID-19 is through regular handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and using hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol content or greater.

If you have questions, the Florida Department of Health has activated a 24/7 COVID-19 call center at **(866) 779-6121**. Leon County residents can also call the County Health Department at **(850) 404-6300**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The best resource for Florida-specific COVID-19 information remains the following FDOH website: www.FLHealth.gov/COVID-19. Significant updates can always be found updated real-time at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/EI. Our Emergency Information Portal has the most up-to-date and timely critical information right from the Emergency Operations Center.

Recent Updates:

- **County facilities (libraries, community centers, and active recreation park facilities)** - will remain **closed through April 15**, consistent with the State of Florida's closure of K-12 schools. Additionally, effective at 5 p.m. today our **County campgrounds** will close until April 15, also consistent with the State's Department of Environmental Protection. *Of course, our nearly 3,000 acres of County parks and trails remain open to the public at this time, and our staff continues to aggressively clean the park restroom facilities.*
 - **Testing** - Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare has set up a drive-thru sample collection site at the Northwood Centre ([1940 North Monroe Street](#)) from 11 am - 6 pm, Monday - Friday. This site is only open for patients who have an order sent from a physician for testing. For more information and to learn what to expect [CLICK HERE](#).
 - **CANCELED** - Leon County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting on April 14, 2020.
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OFFICE OF
**ECONOMIC
VITALITY**

TOMORROW (Saturday, March 21st) - Rally for Tally

Join us in supporting tomorrow's "Rally For Tally"! The goal is simple -- help local restaurants by ordering and picking up food through curbside pick up. Residents are encouraged to call ahead or visit a restaurant's online ordering, if available.

The restaurants will do their best to provide a little something extra for customers and are very appreciative of the unified hospitality effort.

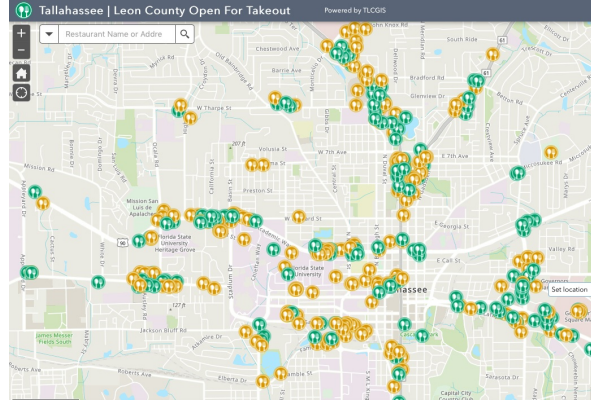
To learn more and to see a list of participating restaurants, [CLICK HERE](#).



Open for Takeout

To continue supporting local businesses in Florida's capital during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) this week launched its "Open for Takeout" initiative to encourage residents to support local businesses while practicing social distancing to minimize the spread of Coronavirus.

The initiative features an [interactive map](#) that allows users to view which businesses are open and offer takeout, curbside, delivery and drive through options.



Based upon the “Open for Business” online interactive map that was developed after back to back active hurricane seasons, OEV’s Open for Takeout map showcases the hours of operation and contact information for local businesses offering alternative dining options, making it easier for local residents to directly contact businesses for products and services. The Open For Takeout initiative will spotlight restaurants remaining open and providing food service through digital and social media efforts.

Please contact the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality at 850-219-1060 or email info@oevforbusiness.org if you have questions or need assistance.

Small Business Loans

The Governor recently activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program. These are short-term, interest-free loans for small businesses that have experienced economic injury from COVID-19. Applications will be accepted from March 17, 2020, through May 8, 2020. For more information, click [HERE](#).

In addition, the U.S. Small Business Administration is providing small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. For more information, click [HERE](#).



Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App

We highly recommend that you download the Leon County Citizens Connect Mobile Application.

The Leon County Citizens Connect app puts the latest information related to COVID-19 at your fingertips through push notifications on your smartphone or other device.

Be the first to know updates relate to the virus - as well as any other emergency management messaging or service changes by downloading the app on the [Apple Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).

If you have difficulty downloading the app, contact library staff at the main library, who are continuing to answer the phone during normal business hours at (850) 606-2665 or emailing (AnswerSquad@LeonCountyFL.gov).



Legal Advice

If you are in need of legal service advice, the Legal

Aid Foundation of Tallahassee (850-222-3292; <http://www.legalaidtallahassee.org/>) and Legal Services of North Florida (850-385-9007; <https://www.lsnf.org/>) may be contacted for legal advice during this difficult time.



Legal Services
of NORTH FLORIDA



Please support our local artists

Our local artists and cultural organizations help us through these challenging times - here are some ways to help them:

Don't let
COVID-19
STEAL THE
SHOW

HERE'S AN
IDEA:
Support Arts &
Culture

Donate back
ticket
refunds

Make a **donation!**

+ Gift your
time
& services

+ Take an online
class
YES

Buy artworks or
memberships as
gifts!

 **TALLAHASSEE
ARTS GUIDE**
An Initiative of the COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS
TallahasseeArts.org

Still Enjoy Online County Library
Services During Closure:

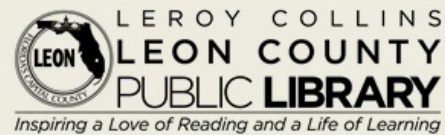
Free E-Books, Movies and MORE!

Although the doors of our libraries may be closed, the online services of the library are very much open to the public.

During this closure, citizens are encouraged to enjoy the numerous online offerings provided by the library including downloading eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines as well as streaming movies with Kanopy.

You can also learn to speak a new language with RBDigital or use the databases for access to free online course content and consumer financial information. Library card holders can also access great electronic services such as Learning Express, Universal Class, and Auto Repair Source, just to name a few.

If you don't currently have a library card, you can sign-up online and begin using your card immediately to access these digital features. Fill out a short registration form online at www.LeonCountyLibrary.org and your personal library card number will be provided to you by email. You can access these resources through the [Library's website](#) and the Leon County Library mobile app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#).



LEON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Inspiring a Love of Reading and a Life of Learning

While the libraries are closed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, **late fees will be suspended and due dates will be extended.** Library staff at the main library will continue to answer the phone during normal business hours at (850) 606-2665. Staff will be available to assist customers with reference questions or other technical assistance by phone or email (AnswerSquad@LeonCountyFL.gov). Also, all library locations will be thoroughly sanitized before reopening.

Mental Health Services

2-1-1 Big Bend is ready to serve the community during crisis. 2-1-1 Big Bend partners with many nationally recognized mental health services and is available 24 hours a day to listen and provide emotional support, crisis counseling, suicide prevention and information. Just dial 2-1-1 or visit their website for a full list of their services: www.211bigbend.org

You can stay up to date on COVID-19 information via Big Bend 2-1-1's Emergency Information page. View their COVID-19 Information Sheet in real-time at: <https://www.211bigbend.org/emergency>

You can also watch a helpful discussion with Mayor John Dailey and Dr. Jay Reeve, CEO of Apalachee Center, regarding mental health during this crisis [HERE](#).



Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster. You can learn more about it [HERE](#).



FloridaDisaster.biz

Helping Florida businesses prepare, respond and recover from hurricanes and other disasters.



Short Time Compensation Program for Employers

The Short Time Compensation program helps employers retain their workforce in times of temporary slowdown by encouraging work sharing as an alternative to layoff.



The program permits prorated reemployment assistance benefits to employees whose work hours and earnings are reduced as part of a Short Time Compensation plan to avoid total layoff of some employees.

To apply for the Short Time Compensation Program, please follow this link to the Employer Login page of [CONNECT](#), at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Leon County Schools Food Pick Up Locations

All school districts in Florida will be closed until April 15.

Beginning next week, Leon County Schools will provide supplemental food via a drive-thru pick up system for students in 14 locations, listed on the graphic to the right.

Many local restaurants are also providing students with free meals. For a list of these restaurants, and for other information related to Leon County Schools, click [HERE](#).

A graphic with a blue background and a yellow banner at the top that reads "LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS". Below the banner is a red box with white text that says "COVID - 19 UPDATE". Underneath is a white box with a blue border containing the text "Food Pick Up Locations Starting March 23:" followed by a list of school names in three columns. At the bottom is a red banner with white text that reads "WWW.LEONSCHOOLS.NET/COVID19".

Food Pick Up Locations Starting March 23:		
Apalachee	Pineview	Fairview
Chaires	Riley	Nims
Ft Braden	Ruediger	
Hartsfield	Sabal Palm	
W.T. Moore	Springwood	
OakRidge	Woodville	

Red Hills Online Market

Have you tried the [Red Hills Small Farm Alliance](#) online [RHOMarket.com](#)? Its a great option while we try to avoid crowded spaces. In addition, fewer steps in the chain from farm to your table is always a good thing, but especially now!

The online market includes fresh, local food (and more!) that can be delivered right to your door!

Ordering from the online market helps support the local economy during this hard time and provides fresh and delicious foods - all while practicing social distancing.



Leon County Trails

During these trying times, health experts encourage going outside so long as you can maintain social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With this in mind, it's a good time to try out Leon County's more than 3,000 acres of trails.

Our trails are still open and offer a great option for hiking and biking. Whether it's the Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway or the Orchard Pond Greenway, Leon County's trails are a great way to enjoy our natural resources, get exercise, and take

advantage of this beautiful weather. Just please remember to practice social distancing.



Business Outreach Survey

In light of COVID-19, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is taking the opportunity to get feedback from our local business owners and employers.

If you are a local business owner, please take a moment to complete this [brief survey](#) about the impacts of COVID-19 on your business. Your feedback is critical to identifying the needs of our business community, and the best ways in which OEV and that of its partner organizations can leverage resources for your business and employees.



Supplies Needed!

The Kearney Center is working to ensure readiness for the potential impact of COVID-19, as many of their clients are elderly and have underlying health issues.

They could especially use hand sanitizer, wipes, soap and toilet paper.

Donations are accepted 24/7 at The Kearney Center, 2650 Municipal Way.

Or, if you are involved with an organization that is interested in holding a collection drive, the Kearney Center will pick up the supplies.

For questions or to schedule a pick-up (large quantities only), please contact Audra Peoples at Audra.Peoples@cesctlh.org.

✦ Disinfectant ✦
Wipes and Spray
Needed!



Donate now to The
Kearney Center

2650 Municipal Way
Tallahassee, FL 32304





COVID-19

Should I Get Tested?

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

If you have returned from ANY international travel or a cruise within the last 14 days and you have fever, cough or shortness of breath,



OR if you have been in close contact with someone who has recently returned from international travel or a cruise and has any of the symptoms above:

- CALL your health care provider or county health department (CHD).
- SCAN the code for the CHD finder.



If your travel history has not put you at risk, take note:

If you have been in close contact with someone who may have or had COVID-19, and you have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, or you have an underlying medical condition like diabetes or heart disease, or a history of cancer.

Call, do not visit, your CHD or health care provider.

It's IMPORTANT to call ahead before visiting your CHD or health care provider. Offices must take proper steps to avoid further spread of COVID-19 when a concerned patient arrives for a medical appointment.



Symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are **fever, cough and shortness of breath.**

Some patients have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.



These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people recover from the disease without needing special treatment.



How testing is done.

A person who is tested will have three specimens taken: oral, nasal and saliva. Samples will be given to the CHD and from there, shipped or delivered to the closest laboratory. Test results are available within 24–48 hours.



What if I test positive for COVID-19?

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- Wear a facemask when around others.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces everyday



Learn more:

tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention

tinyurl.com/FLcovidsick