

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE

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COVID-19 Update #18 April 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM

We thank the community for your efforts in social distancing and wearing masks in public. As the Federal Government and Governor of Florida release information to the public regarding Guidelines for Opening again, we want to assure the residents of Ocean Ridge that although Palm Beach County is not ready to open yet, we are reviewing data on a daily basis with our regional partners in order to make informed decisions moving forward. In reviewing data, it is clear that the peak has not been reached in Palm Beach County yet, and the peak may not be reached until early to mid-May. The tri-county area makes up 30% of the population of Florida, yet we are the epicenter of the virus and make up 60% of the cases of COVID-19. Palm Beach County Officials held a press conference on Friday, April 17th and stated that they are not ready to relax any orders that are currently in place in Palm Beach County such as beach closures. We are working regionally in the tri-county area on recovery plans, as consistency is key when restrictions are reduced. We ask residents to remain vigilant and patient as we work through these delicate procedures, as our goal is and always will be the safety of our residents.

Old Ocean Blvd appears to have become the preferred recreation and exercise area for not only residents of the Town, but for the general public. Social distancing is becoming harder and harder to achieve in this area, and the decision was made to lessen the vehicular and pedestrian traffic along that roadway. The stay at home order is still in effect, and the public is encouraged to exercise near their residence to help with social distancing. We are also strongly urging that the public wear facial coverings while in public to help slow the spread of this potentially deadly virus. We remind residents that we are still in a state of emergency due to a pandemic, and limiting the loss of life is our main focus. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused; however, the public health and safety of all of our residents is our main priority during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Town Manager Tracey Stevens and Chief of Police Hal Hutchins