

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE

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COVID-19 Update #1 March 18, 2020 at 3:00 PM

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic, and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has deemed it necessary to prohibit or restrict non-essential travel to or from certain countries of concern. The Federal, State, and County governments have all declared States of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town's Emergency Operations Managers have been monitoring the situation closely for the safety and well-being of the public. Although the Town has not yet declared a state of emergency for Ocean Ridge, we have taken the following measures to combat COVID-19 so far:

1. Notices have been placed on the entry doors to the Town Hall and Police Department facility notifying the public to not enter the building if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have recently travelled to impacted areas, and instead call Town Hall for assistance.
2. In order to protect employees and the public and to ensure continuity of Town operations, as of today, there will be restricted access to Town Hall. Public access for necessary Town business will remain open with enhanced protections in place to stop unintended exposures to COVID-19. As such, the restrooms, library area and conference rooms will be closed to the public until further notice. Please refrain from visiting Town Hall unless absolutely necessary. Instead, please call for assistance.
3. Cancelled the "Save the Seas – Plastics Free" event and any other large gatherings that have been planned until further notice.
4. Cancelled all rentals of the Town Hall facility until further notice.
5. Working on the implementation of temporary time-off guidelines for Town employees that may contracted the virus and/or need to be quarantined to limit spreading the virus throughout our community.
6. Implemented temporary protocols for Police Officers/first responders to follow such as limited entry for medical calls based on symptoms, in coordination with the City of Boynton Beach who provides Fire/EMS services to the Town.
7. Installed temporary plexi-glass sneeze/cough barriers at the counter area at Town Hall.
8. Increased our cleaning and sanitization practices of the Town Hall & Police Department facility as well as town vehicles.

9. Beaches in Ocean Ridge remain open at this time; however, Governor Desantis issued an executive order directing beach-goers to limit gatherings on the beaches to no more than 10 people.

Containment is key! We are urging everyone to socially distance themselves by avoiding large crowds and social gatherings. Also, remain diligent about washing your hands, not touching your face, using hand sanitizer and keeping high traffic surface areas clean. Other recommendations include teleworking if available and minimal travel. The elderly and anyone with underlying health issues should take additional precautions limiting their exposure.

For residents who are experiencing coronavirus symptoms such as fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath, we urge you to contact your primary care physician by telephone for additional instructions. Please do not report directly to an emergency room or doctor's office if you have these symptoms!

Hospitals are not currently administering COVID-19 tests. To ensure that hospitals do not become overwhelmed, please refrain from hospital or emergency room visits unless there is a critical need.

We will continue to update the public with new developments as things progress, and encourage residents to sign up for Civic Ready emergency alerts at this time in order to receive notifications immediately as they are published.

Stay safe and healthy!

Tracey L. Stevens
Town Manager

Hal C. Hutchins
Chief of Police