



A Status Update for the Board of County Commissioners – March 22, 2020

## Update #15 on COVID-19

Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry issued [Emergency Order 20-01](#) today, closing all non-essential retail and commercial business locations in incorporated and unincorporated Broward County. The closure is to take effect on 12:01AM on Monday, March 23.

The Emergency Order defines in detail which retail and commercial businesses are considered essential, and directed to remain open. They include, but are not limited to, healthcare providers and equipment suppliers, doctor's offices and urgent care centers, mental health professionals, home health care service providers, grocery stores and pharmacies, banks, gas stations, media and businesses that provide food, shelter, social services and other necessities for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals,

Businesses that remain open are directed to implement health professional recommendations for social distancing and all other preventive measures as advised by local health professionals and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Non-essential businesses are directed to close, except to the extent necessary to perform "Minimum Basic Operations." Minimum Basic Operations are defined as minimum activities necessary to maintain the value of inventory, preserve plant and equipment condition, ensure security, process the business's own payroll and employee benefits, and facilitate the business's own employees working remotely.

The County has expanded alternate ways for residents to obtain certain services without having to come in to government facilities. This includes services such as animal adoptions and fosters, permits, auto tag renewals, document recording services, tax collections including property taxes, household hazardous waste recycling and water services payments for customers served by Broward County Water & Wastewater Services. [Read News Release](#)

### COVID-19 Call Center Operations

The Broward County Call Center is assisting the Florida Department of Health in Broward County in answering public questions about COVID-19, including conducting over-the-phone pre-screenings to determine eligibility for testing. The new COVID-19 Call Center number is **954-357-9500**. The COVID-19 call center will accept calls from 8AM to 8PM, 7 days a week. On Sunday, the Call Center accepted 388 calls, with approximately 40 referrals to the Health Department for testing.

**IMPORTANT:** Broward County's 311 Call Center continues to operate separately, during normal business hours of 8:30AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. **Please do not direct members of the public to call 311 for**

**COVID-19 questions, or promote calling 311 on your COVID-19 websites. All COVID-19 inquiries should be directed to 954-357-9500.**

### **Testing Collection Site at C.B. Smith Park**

The COVID-19 testing collection site opened at the County's C.B. Smith Park yesterday, operated by the National Guard, tested 745 people. A total of 740 vehicles came in and 132 vehicles were rejected. The Incident Commander reported that the State Surgeon General was extremely happy with the number of collections conducted.

### **County Commissioners to Hold Special Workshop**

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special largely Virtual Workshop on Tuesday, March 24, 10AM at the Governmental Center in downtown Fort Lauderdale to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency measures being taken. To promote social distancing and avoid risk of community spread, a limited number of County Commissioners and County employees will be physically present. However, all interested parties may view the workshop live via: <https://vimeo.com/399158059>, and on participating cable channels including Comcast, Advanced Communications, AT&T U-verse and Atlantic Broadband. This is not an opportunity for public comment, and no formal votes will be taken.

Residents and visitors are reminded to continue to follow health official recommendations for personal protection.

Broward County remains under a local State of Emergency and the Broward Emergency Operations Center is at a Level 2 activation.

For the latest updates, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov), email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov) or call the COVID-19 Call Center at 954-357-9500. To learn what Broward County is doing, visit [Broward.org/Coronavirus](https://www.broward.org/Coronavirus).

*This update prepared by the Broward County Office of Public Communications*

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