

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ORDER UPDATING
COVID-19 LIMITATIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENTS AND GATHERINGS**

WHEREAS, Declarations of Emergency to institute measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been issued by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Florida, and the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group; and

WHEREAS, Public Health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction between people in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, and on March 15, 2020, the U. S. Centers for Disease Control amended their social distancing guidelines to suggest limiting any in-person gatherings to 50 people or less; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the President of the United States issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America recommending avoidance of gatherings in groups of more than 10 people; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorizes Hillsborough County to declare a state of local emergency, and further authorizes Hillsborough County to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 22, Article 2, Section 22-22, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws (Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance), and the Hillsborough County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan delegates authority to declare a state of local emergency to the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group; and

WHEREAS, Section 22-22, of the Hillsborough County Code, specifically authorizes the Emergency Policy Group with the power to declare that a state of emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group declared a state of local emergency in response to a County wide threat from the COVID-19 Virus for all of Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-51 directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-68 which amongst other regulatory provisions and directives (1) suspends the sale of alcoholic beverages on premises that derive more than 50% of its gross revenue from the sale of

alcoholic beverages for thirty days; (2) limits gatherings at public beaches to no more than 10 persons and to distance these gatherings from other parties by at least 6 feet; (3) limits occupancy at restaurants to 50% of its current building occupancy, and maintaining, at a minimum, a 6 foot distance between any group of patrons and limiting parties to no more than 10 individuals; and (4) defines “restaurants” as to include any Food Service Establishment, licensed under Chapter 500, Florida Statutes, and Public Food Service Establishment, licensed under Chapter 509, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group delegated to the County Administrator, the emergency management powers of the Emergency Policy Group, as set out in Section 22-23 of the Hillsborough County Emergency Management Ordinance, not already implemented by this Order, are hereby delegated to the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Hillsborough County shall comply with the Executive Orders issued by the Governor of the State of Florida; and seeks to implement additional restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, provided these restrictions are not inconsistent with Governor’s Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, in light of the rapidly-evolving nature of the spread of COVID-19, particularly the imminent threat posed by close social interaction, and pursuant to the authority vested by Florida Statutes, Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, by Executive Order of the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group, the following Hillsborough County Administrator Order is being issued.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL MERRILL, as County Administrator, by virtue of the authority vested in me, promulgate the following Administrator Order to take effect immediately:

1. The Governor’s Executive Order 20-68 is attached herein and incorporated by reference.
2. Amongst other regulatory provisions and directives, the Governor’s Executive Order 20-68 (1) suspends the sale of alcoholic beverages on premises that derive more than 50% of its gross revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages for thirty days; (2) limits gatherings at public beaches to no more than 10 persons and to distance these gatherings from other parties by at least 6 feet; (3) limits occupancy at restaurants to 50% of its current building occupancy, and maintaining, at a minimum, a 6 foot distance between any group of patrons and limiting parties to no more than 10 individuals; and (4) defines “restaurants” as to include any Food Service Establishment, licensed under Chapter 500, Florida Statutes, and Public Food Service Establishment, licensed under Chapter 509, Florida Statutes. The Governor’s directive regarding restaurants shall also apply to any other establishments offering food or drink for sale.

3. In addition to the directives in the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-68, this Administrator Order directs restaurants, private clubs, or any other establishment that serves food or drink on premises for consumption or provides take out, delivery, or drive-thru services, shall only maintain hours of operations between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily, subject to adherence to all sanitation and social distancing protocols for COVID-19 as set forth in Centers for Disease Control and Florida Department of Health guidelines.
4. All public or private gatherings, including community, civic, public leisure, faith-based events, sporting events, concerts and any similar events that bring together more than 10 people in a single room or a single space at the same time are prohibited. This prohibition includes fitness centers, health clubs, private clubs and theaters, but does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, medical facilities, pharmacies, gas stations, bank/credit unions and shelters; nor does it include restaurants in which capacity restrictions are governed by the Governor's Executive Order 20-68.

Any gathering of 10 or less people should have the capacity to provide individuals with a 6 foot distance between each person.

5. Hillsborough County Administrator Order Establishing COVID-19 Limitations on Hours and On-Premise Consumption of Food and Beverages in Restaurants, Bars, Private Clubs and Other Establishments executed on March 16, 2020 is rescinded and replaced by the directives in this Order.
6. Hillsborough County Administrator Order Establishing COVID-19 Limitations on Gatherings executed on March 17, 2020, is rescinded and replaced by the directives in this Order.
7. Hillsborough County Administrator Order Establishing Updating COVID-19 Limitations for Establishments and Gatherings executed on March 17, 2020, is rescinded and replaced by the directives in this Order.
8. The County Administrator also recommends adherence to the President of the United States Coronavirus Guidelines for America in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus (coronavirus.gov).

EXECUTED this 19 day of March, 2020.



Michael S. Merrill
Hillsborough County Administrator

I, **PAT FRANK**, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of the County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing establishing Updated COVID-19 Limitations for Establishments and Gatherings has been filed with this office as an attachment to the Executive Order adopted by the Emergency Policy Group of Hillsborough County on March 12, 2020 and extended on March 19, 2020.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this ____ day of March, 2020.

PAT FRANK
Clerk of Circuit Court

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: _____
Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency