

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates for Jackson County, Florida

The Jackson County Tourist Development Council (TDC) is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as it relates to Florida and Jackson County. Our top priority is the safety, health, and wellbeing of our community, stakeholders, residents, and visitors. This is a rapidly evolving situation that changes by the hour and there is a lot of uncertainty. We are providing you resources below for your business and employees.

Our staff is in regular contact with VISIT FLORIDA, Florida's state tourism office, and will begin weekly calls with the state level emergency operations center for updates directly related to our industry.

We will send out all major updates and resources regarding COVID-19 via email. *Please forward to any colleagues in the industry that you feel would benefit from this information.*

Jackson County Specific Updates:

- Information on education centers within Jackson County can be found at the links below:
 - [Baptist College of Florida](#)
 - [Chipola College](#)
 - [Jackson County School Board](#)
- We will continue to work with the Jackson County Health Department, Jackson County Emergency Management, Jackson County Board of County Commissioners, and others to continue to keep you updated on developments.
- We have not activated any visitor-facing messaging at this point. Our Crisis Communication Plan outlines how the Visitors Center will operate remotely in time of crisis and will guide our staff as needed.
- As this situation evolves, check with event organizers directly on events that may be impacted or postponed. **All planned events for the next 60 days should register event information with the Jackson County Tourist Development Council. Please contact Christy Andreasen at (850) 209-1223 to register your event immediately.** Please see the section for Mass Gatherings and Community Events for more information.

Links with factual updates:

- [Florida Department of Health - COVID-19 Latest Updates](#) | [FDOH Facebook](#)
- [CDC - COVID-19 Information](#) | [CDC Facebook](#)
- Social Media Only
 - [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#)
 - [Jackson County Board of County Commissioners](#)
 - [Jackson County School District](#)

Prevention:

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website

For information specific to healthcare, see [CDC's Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#)

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. CDC does have [specific guidance for travelers](#).

Best practices for the Tourism and Hospitality Industry:

The following are links provided for best practices within the tourism and hospitality industry. We encourage you and your staff to review the recommended actions and make a plan for your business if one has not been provided to you from corporate.

Accommodations

- [ECOLab Accommodations Best Practices Download](#)
- [Airbnb](#)
- [VRBO](#)

Restaurants

- [ECOLab Restaurants Best Practices Download](#)
- [ServSafe](#)
- National Restaurant Association:
 - [National Restaurant Association](#)
 - [Restaurant Preparedness](#)

Food & Beverage

- [ECOLab Food & Beverage Best Practices Download](#)

Mass Gathering and Community Events:

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis urged the statewide cancellation or postponement of all mass gatherings or public events as a preventative measure. VISIT FLORIDA is actively monitoring the status of COVID-19 in regards to tourism operations in Florida and will provide updates to county officials when applicable. [VISIT FLORIDA](#) is currently referring all industry partners to the CDC Resource Page and the Florida Department of Health for situation updates.

While there are no events currently cancelled in Jackson County, we encourage all scheduled events to register event information with the Jackson County Tourist Development Council to assist in monitoring event status county-wide.
To register your event, please contact Christy Andreasen at (850) 209-1223.

Information regarding Mass Gathering can be found at the following links:

- [Florida Department of Health - Mass Gatherings Overview](#)
 - [Plan](#)
 - [Act](#)
 - [Follow Up](#)
- CDC
 - [Mass Gathering Readiness Resources](#)
 - [Cleaning and Disinfecting Community Facilities](#)

Industry Resources:

- [FDOH - COVID-19 Toolkit](#)
- [CDC - COVID-19 Information for Travelers](#)
- [Governor DeSantis Activates Emergency Business Damage Assessment Survey for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Resources provided by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Florida Chamber of Commerce, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation:
 - [CDC | Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Summary](#)
Updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking the situation in the U.S. and the latest recommendations
 - [CDC | Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)
Updated information about Coronavirus for travelers and travel related industries
 - [Florida Department of Health | Coronavirus in Florida](#)
An updated tracker of test results in Florida and additional resources

Business Resources

- [CDC | Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](#)
Recommended strategies for employers to use now
- [OSHA | COVID-19 Safety and Health Standards, Control & Prevention External Link](#)
An overview of information for workers and employers, including links to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and control and prevention
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation | Guidance for Employers to Plan and Respond to the Coronavirus](#)
Strategies and tips to protect your workforce
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation | Understanding the Coronavirus \(Video\)](#)
Webinar about the impact of coronavirus on the private sector and how companies should consider their response, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America | Insurance-related Resources](#)
Disaster planning toolkit, losses of business income implications, worker compensation, and more
- [Pinnacol | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Prevention tips to keep you and your employees safe](#)
Tips to help prevent workplace