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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 13, 2020**

### **Village of El Portal - State of Emergency: COVID-19**

El Portal, FL - Today, the Village of El Portal has declared a State of Emergency regarding the coronavirus pandemic joining Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida. The Village of El Portal is vigilantly monitoring the latest developments. Our Village is committed to taking the necessary steps to safeguard the health and safety of our employees, visitors, and residents.

The World Health Organization (WHO) previously declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The COVID-19 is a severe acute respiratory transmission illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza. Due to the COVID-19, a condition of extreme peril of life and property necessitates the proclamation of existence of an emergency.

As such, the Village of El Portal will be postponing all community events between Monday, March 16th – Thursday, April 30, 2020 as a precaution to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Annual Egg Hunt
- Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Annual Operation Village-wide Clean up – Earth Day 2020
- Saturday, April 25, Annual Arbor Day Celebration

At this time, this postponement only includes community events and not required Village Council or Committee Meetings. Also, unless declared otherwise by Miami-Dade County, the voting polls at our Village Hall will be open on Primary Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds everyone to do their part to minimize the chance of further spreading the virus through preventative measures like:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects & surfaces using a regular house cleaning spray or wipe.
- Take personal responsibility. If you are sick with a fever, cough or viral symptoms, please stay away from others, including work and crowded areas.

It is important that everyone follow these best practices for preventing illness and that we all remain calm as we work through this period.

The Village of El Portal website: [elportalvillage.com](http://elportalvillage.com) has helpful links to resources and information from both the CDC and the Florida Department of Health about the symptoms of the virus and the proper steps to take if you are concerned that you may be directly impacted. Refer to our Village of El Portal website for ongoing information. Also, follow us on Instagram and Twitter @villageofelportal.

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