

# DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND “SAFER AT HOME” REGULATIONS

(COVID-19 State of Emergency – March 27, 2020)

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-52 regarding COVID-19, declaring a state of emergency in the State of Florida, and authorizing in accordance with Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, each political subdivision within the State to “waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to . . . [the] [p]erformance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community;”

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-274(c) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Mayor Dean J. Trantalis issued and declared various emergency regulations on March 13, March 15, and March 17, 2020, to limit the spread and limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19, which were confirmed and approved unanimously by the City Commission on Friday, March 20, 2020;

WHEREAS, since the outbreak of COVID-19 numerous local governments and multiple states have adopted various versions of “shelter in place” and “safer at home” orders. These orders are designed to protect the health and well-being of the community, to create social distancing, and to minimize contact in an effort to limit community spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, as of today, the City of Fort Lauderdale is aware of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within its jurisdictional boundaries. To limit the potential community spread of COVID-19, it is now necessary for the City of Fort Lauderdale to implement restrictions for the general health, safety, and welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 252.38(3) and 252.46, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Section 2-274(c) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the event of a proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor, the Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale is empowered to:

1. Make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Commission;
2. Obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property and bind the city for the

fair value thereof and, if required immediately, commandeer the same for public use;

3. Require emergency services of any City officer or employee and, in the event of the proclamation of a state of emergency in the county in which this City is located or the existence of a state of war emergency, command the aid of as many citizens of this community as he deems necessary in the execution of his duties; such persons shall be entitled to all privileges, benefits, and immunities as are provided by state law for registered disaster service workers;
4. Requisition necessary personnel or material of any City Department or agency; and
5. Execute all of his ordinary power as Mayor, all of the special powers conferred upon him by Chapter 2, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, or by resolution or emergency plan adopted by the City Commission pursuant to Article IX, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, all powers conferred upon him by any statute, by an agreement approved by the City Commission, and by any other lawful authority.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Dean J. Trantalis, Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 2-274(c), Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida:

**DO HEREBY ORDER AND DECLARE:**

**Section 1.** Each resident of the City of Fort Lauderdale is hereby ordered to stay home and within the entirety of their owned or rented property. The order to stay at home does not require residents to confine themselves to the interior of their homes. Residents may make use of all exterior portions of their homes such as patios, porches, yards, and driveways. Residents may also leave their place of residence and travel to another place in accordance with Section 3, below.

**Section 2.** Unless a person has a Permissible Use as provided for in Section 3, below, no person shall travel or be on or upon any public right of way, including but not limited to, streets, canals, or sidewalks, within the boundaries of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Section 3. Permissible Use.** Notwithstanding Section 1 and 2, all residents and visitors in the City of Fort Lauderdale may lawfully engage in the following activities:

- (1) **Essential Businesses.** Residents and visitors may engage in travel to Essential Businesses, as identified in Subsections A through Q herein, and provide minimum basic operations to non-essential businesses and as may be amended or extended. For clarity, businesses may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing

activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home), and any operations, land, or facilities owned and managed by Broward County, the Broward County School Board, the North Broward Hospital District, the State of Florida, and the Federal Government, are exempt from these regulation. All Essential Businesses are strongly encouraged to remain open:

- A. Healthcare providers and facilities, including but not limited to, hospitals, doctors' and dental offices, urgent care centers, clinics, rehabilitation facilities, physical therapists, mental health professionals, psychiatrists, therapists, medical supply companies, and pharmacies.
- B. Grocery stores, food distribution centers, supermarkets, convenience stores, food banks, pet supply stores, and stores which sell groceries and other non-grocery products and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of residences.
- C. Drive-thru, delivery, take-out, and exterior pick-up food services for all restaurants, cafeterias, and other food service establishments.
- D. Banks, credit unions, and similar financial institutions.
- E. Professional services, including legal and accounting services.
- F. Gas stations, auto-supply stores, and auto repair facilities.
- G. Hardware stores and office supply stores.
- H. Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers.
- I. Telecommunication and computer providers and services.
- J. Offices and businesses in support of essential business and commercial activities, including mailing, shipping, printing, trucking, warehousing, handling, delivery, and logistical services.
- K. Open constructions sites, architectural, engineering, land surveying, and inspection services.
- L. Childcare facilities for groups of 10 or fewer.
- M. Essential services to residents within their homes, such as repair services, appliance repair, sanitation, extermination, landscaping and pool services, home care, or other essential residential services, provided persons engaging in these essential activities shall maintain a distance separation of at least 6 feet.
- N. Veterinarians and pet boarding facilities.

- O. Mortuaries, funeral homes, and cemeteries.
  - P. Businesses providing services and goods to any local, state, or Federal government, including municipalities, pursuant to a contract with such government.
  - Q. Marinas, but limited to docking, fueling, marine supply and other marina services related to repair and maintenance of vessels.
- (2) **Emergency Assistance.** Residents and visitors may engage in travel and similar activities to obtain assistance from law enforcement, fire-rescue, or other emergency services.
  - (3) **Personal Support Activities.** Residents and visitors may travel to and from their homes to care for or support a friend, companion, family member, pet or livestock, support groups, or a vulnerable person.
  - (4) **Work in Support of Essential Businesses.** Residents and visitors in the City may continue to perform work for and in support of businesses authorized to be open, and any local government, the State government, or the Federal government.
  - (5) **Outdoor Recreational Activities.** In areas not otherwise closed by a separate Emergency or Executive Order or Declaration, residents may engage in outdoor activity and recreation while staying six (6) feet apart from another person or group of people, and so as long as residents are in compliance with size of public gatherings as defined in Section 7 below.
  - (6) **Religious Activities.** Residents and visitors may travel to and from places of worship. Places of worship must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 4 below, to the greatest extent feasible and the size of public gatherings as defined in Section 7 below. Places of worship are encouraged to livestream their services in lieu of in-person gatherings.
  - (7) **Government Employees and Emergency Personnel.** All first responders, gang and crisis intervention workers, public health workers, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, law enforcement personnel and related contractors, persons working for emergency service providers, and government employees performing work in the course and scope of their employment are categorically exempt from this Order.
  - (8) **Public Transit.** Public transit may be used for the above listed activities. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 4 below, to the greatest extent feasible.

**Section 4. Social Distancing Requirements.** A person in a public space shall:

- (1) Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet away whenever practicable from another person, excluding immediate family members, caretakers or, household members;
- (2) Cover all coughs and sneezes with their elbow or tissue;
- (3) Not shake hands;
- (4) Not enter any public place if the person exhibits any flu or COVID-19 like symptoms and/or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit unless that person is traveling to or from a hospital, doctor's office, urgent care, walk-in clinic, or pharmacy;
- (5) If a person is exhibiting flu or COVID-19 like symptoms or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit and is seeking medical treatment, the person shall first contact their medical provider by phone before appearing at the medical provider's office; and
- (6) If a person is exhibiting flu or COVID-19 like symptoms or has a fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit and requires a prescription or a refill thereof and the pharmacy has a drive-thru window and/or delivery service, that person shall utilize the drive-thru window and/or delivery service to receive their medication.

**Section 5. Essential Businesses Employee Screening.** For those businesses deemed to be an Essential Business, as set forth above, these facilities shall implement employee screening and prohibit any employee from entering the premises if they affirmatively answer any of the below questions, as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- (1) Have you returned from international travel (anywhere outside the United States) or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
- (2) Have you been in contact with anyone who has returned from international travel or been on a cruise within the last 14 days?
- (3) Have you been in any gathering of 50 people or more in the last 14 days?
- (4) Have you traveled through any airport within the past 14 days?
- (5) Have you traveled to any area known to have high numbers of positive cases of COVID-19, including but not limited to California, Washington, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Washington D.C. within the past 14 days?

- (6) Have you experienced signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever over 99.9 degrees Fahrenheit, cough or shortness of breath?

**Section 6. Essential Businesses Cleaning Protocols.** For those businesses deemed to be an Essential Business, as set forth above, these facilities must make every effort to:

- (1) Provide disinfectant wipes or equivalent for shopping carts and baskets or disinfect shopping carts and baskets after each use.
- (2) Disinfect hourly, at a minimum all check out areas, including but not limited to, conveyor belts, cash registers, and credit card areas.
- (3) Disinfect after closing or before opening all areas of the business that customers may touch or come into contact.
- (4) Require employees or independent contractors present to wash and/or disinfect their hands at least once per hour.
- (5) Clean and disinfect any pen, stylus or screen used to sign receipts after each customer or waive the need to sign a receipt.
- (6) Ensure that no more than 10 people, including staff, are gathered in any particular area of the Essential Business.
- (7) Ensure that customers at checkout are separated by at least 6 feet.
- (8) Disinfect all door handles used by the general public at least hourly during business hours.
- (9) Essential Businesses with waiting rooms must ensure that no person shall be seated within 6 feet of another person and all seats must be disinfected after each use.
- (10) Do not allow more than 25% of their approved maximum capacity into any location.

**Section 7. Limit on Gatherings.** All gatherings of 10 or more people shall be prohibited except for those identified in Section 3 above. Social Distancing Requirements must be observed.

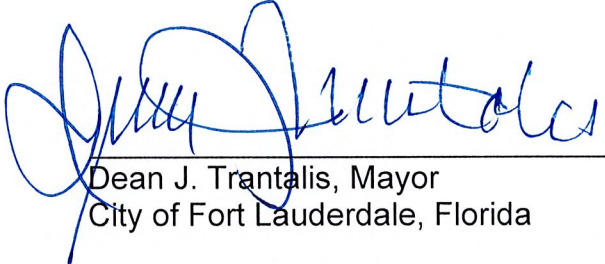
**Section 8. Exceptions for Utilities and Government Personnel.** Nothing in this Order shall be construed to limit or restrict movement or use of the public rights of way for use by other local governments, the state government, and federal government or their employees, and utility providers and contractors while engaged in their duties.

**Section 9. Enforcement.** This Order is in addition to, and supplements, the City's Declaration of Emergency Regulations, dated March 17, 2020, County Emergency Orders, and State of Florida Executive Orders and shall be strictly adhered to at all times. In accordance with Chapters 162 and 252, Florida Statutes, and pursuant Section 2-278, Code of Ordinances, City of Fort Lauderdale, any violation of any rule or regulation issued and set forth herein shall be punishable as provided in Chapter 18, Section 18-1, and/or Chapter 1, Section 1-6, Code of Ordinances, City of Fort Lauderdale.

**Section 10. Effective Date.** This Emergency Declaration is effective as of 12:01 am on March 28, 2020 and shall remain in full force up through and including April 16, 2020, unless earlier terminated by subsequent Declaration.

Ordered in the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 27th day of March, 2020.



  
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Dean J. Trantalis, Mayor  
City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Attest:



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Jeff Modarelli  
City Clerk