

**ADMINISTRATOR ORDER NUMBER 20-05**

**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, which local emergency was extended for another seven day period on March 19, 2020; 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, subject to beach closure at the discretion of local authorities; (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**, on March 20, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-71 further regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages and restaurant services in the State of Florida; 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 Orders 20-68 and 20-71 are attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. In addition to the directives in the Governor’s Executive Order Number 20-68, as amended and superseded by 20-71, this Administrator Order shall provide additional directives and guidance for Hillsborough County.

3. The Governor's Executive Order 20-71 applicable to restaurants and bars shall apply to any other establishments offering food or drink for sale. In addition, it is recognized that food delivery is a crucial and essential service for many in our community. Restaurants, private clubs, or any other establishment may provide food or drink\* services for take-out, delivery, or drive-through only, 24 hours a day, 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. Such establishments may operate their kitchens for the purpose of providing delivery, drive-through, or take-out services. Employees, janitorial personnel, contractors, and delivery personnel shall be allowed access to such establishments for the purposes of delivery, drive-through, or take-out services.

\*Alcoholic beverage sales shall be governed as provided by the Governor's Executive Order 20-71.

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, single space, or any other venue, at the same time are prohibited. This prohibition does not include venues that provide essential goods or services such as grocery stores, hospitals, medical facilities, pharmacies, gas stations, bank/credit unions, shelters, and government agencies and their meetings.

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 Updating COVID-19 Limitations for Establishments and Gatherings executed on March 17, 2020, is rescinded and replaced by the directives in this Order.
8. Hillsborough County Administrator Order Updating COVID-19 Limitations for Establishments and Gatherings executed on March 19, 2020, is rescinded and replaced by the directives in this Order.
9. 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 20 day of March, 2020.



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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 Hillsborough County Administrator Order 20-05 Updating 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