



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH™

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Local State of Emergency Declared in Gulf Shores Due to COVID-19

Gulf Shores, Ala. – March 18, 2020 – In a special meeting this afternoon, Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft and members of the City Council, adopted a resolution declaring a local state of emergency affecting public health and safety due to COVID-19.

This declaration authorizes the Mayor to take all necessary or appropriate actions under *Code of Alabama 1975* to meet the conditions of the emergency. This includes the ability to do the following:

- To appropriate and expend funds, make contracts, obtain and distribute equipment, materials and supplies for emergency management purposes.
- To provide for the health and safety of persons and property including emergency assistance to the victims of any disaster.
- To direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans set by federal and state of emergency management agencies.
- To assign and make available for duty the employees, property, or equipment of the City of Gulf Shores for firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related service, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency management purposes.
- To exercise any and all other powers and authorities, for emergency management purposes, as may otherwise be provided by the *Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955*, above referenced, or other relevant or applicable federal or state law or regulation.

City officials are actively working with the office of Gov. Kay Ivey and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to identify all precautionary options that can be taken to insure the safety of the Gulf Shores community.

As a way to continue to minimize the spread of COVID-19 the City is requesting that the community follows Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) updated recommendations concerning public gatherings, food establishment and other retail venues, and businesses:

- No mass gatherings of 10 persons or more, or gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between participants (with exceptions noted below). This includes festivals, parades, assemblies, or sporting events.
- Senior adults or those with chronic health problems should avoid gatherings (outside of close family), and avoid travel by air, train or bus.

- Retail businesses should limit patronage at any one time to 50% of the normally allowable capacity.
- Restaurants are strongly encouraged to only offer food for take-out or delivery. Online ordering or curbside pick-up is also recommended.
- Public buildings should consider whether visitation may be limited. Hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities are encouraged to implement visitation policies that protect vulnerable persons.
- All persons should consider whether out-of-state travel plans may be delayed or cancelled.
- Participants in religious services or events, weddings, funerals and family events should exercise prudence and maintain consistent six-foot distance between participants if possible.
- While workplaces should attempt to heed to these recommendations whenever possible, it is understood that exceptions may be needed for essential government functions, municipal and state legislative bodies, and health care facilities including clinics, hospitals and pharmacies. Consider using means for electronic or video meetings in workplaces if possible.

In addition, the City of Gulf Shores is urging residents and visitors to continue practicing social distancing and other precautionary measures, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds – If soap is unavailable, use an alcohol based (60%) sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue, or cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently touched.
- Avoid contact with those who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick or not feeling well.
- Practice "Social Distancing" by maintaining six feet of separation between you and other people.
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more.

The City will continue to provide public updates at www.gulfshoresal.gov and through social media. The public is encouraged to sign up to receive update notifications by visiting our website and clicking the "Notify Me" button.

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