

Discover the Palm Beaches

Update on Coronavirus | Sunday, March 8, 2020

Discover The Palm Beaches' General Destination Statement Regarding COVID-19:

As the official destination marketing corporation for Palm Beach County, Discover The Palm Beaches' utmost priority is the safety and comfort of our visitors. In an overabundance of caution, we understand and respect the concerns of those visiting the destination.

Discover The Palm Beaches (DTPB) is closely monitoring news about COVID-19 through regular communication with the Florida Department of Health, as well as monitoring real-time updates from the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. We rely on these experts to take the appropriate steps to keep everyone safe and informed.

DTPB is committed to serving as a trusted resource by sharing information directly from these experts to help visitors, meeting planners and our tourism community make informed decisions about travel to The Palm Beaches based **on facts, not fear**.

As of Sunday, March 8, 2020, there have been no cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) identified in Palm Beach County. All tourism and economic activities are operating under normal circumstances, as there are no travel restrictions in place.

As stated by the Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees on Monday, March 2, the risk to the general population in **Florida is low**. In addition, no Florida airports are among those to where Americans traveling from China are being rerouted.

DTPB has a commitment to be a trusted resource for everyone. We will continue to send pertinent email updates – ensuring the tourism industry, residents, and travelers are properly informed.

Discover The Palm Beaches Talking Points:

- The safety and comfort of our community, tourism partners and visitors are our utmost priorities.
- Discover The Palm Beaches is in direct communication with health officials and government departments to stay abreast of the latest developments pertaining to coronavirus.
- Our team is actively prepared to supply accurate tourism messaging to the destination as it relates to the coronavirus, and will continue to provide [Helpful Travel Information](#) for our visitors to make the most informed travel planning decisions possible to The Palm Beaches.
- As of March 3, 2020, there are no reported cases of Coronavirus in Palm Beach County.
- No travel advisories have been implemented by the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or Florida Department of Health.
- In addition, no Florida airports are among those to where Americans traveling from China are being rerouted. International travel from other countries of concern has been heightened throughout the country.

- Discover The Palm Beaches continues to closely monitor the situation, via the Florida Department of Health, CDC and the World Health Organization and is conducting necessary actions to update visitors, meeting planners and residents.
- Please continue to visit <https://www.thepalmbeaches.com/coronavirus-covid-19-update> for further updates.

FAQ

Q: I heard coronavirus was reported in Florida. Is that true?

A: Governor Ron DeSantis directed State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees to declare a public health emergency in Florida as two patients tested presumptively positive for COVID-19 in Hillsborough and Manatee Counties. **According to the Florida Department of Health, the risk to the public in Florida remains low.**

Q: What is a health emergency?

A: The emergency declaration gives state, tribal, and local health departments more flexibility to request that U.S. Department of Health & Human Services authorize them to temporarily reassign state, local, and tribal personnel to respond to COVID-19 if their salaries normally are funded in whole or in part by Public Health Service Act programs. These personnel could assist with public health information campaigns and other response activities.

Q: Are you aware of any cancellations of upcoming sports events, festivals, exhibits, conventions, meetings or the like? Do you know of any hotels or major venues that have adjusted their itineraries and/or bookings?

A: At this time, there are no updates to share regarding group or event cancellations or postponements. We encourage those traveling to the area to connect with their in-destination Services Manager and/or host venue or hotelier for further details.

Q: Is the CVB aware of any major changes at cruise ports or airports stemming from the virus?

A: There are no flight or cruise cancellations due to Coronavirus at Palm Beach International Airport or Port of Palm Beach.

Q: What is being done to prevent coronavirus in Palm Beach County?

The Florida Department of Health has a robust illness surveillance system and is working with CDC to ensure that the proper precautions are being taken to protect Florida residents and visitors.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the Department of Health always recommends everyday preventive actions to help impede the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Covering your cough or sneezing with a tissue, then disposing of the issue;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, 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 your hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The federal government has not recommended limiting domestic travel. Here is specific information from the [CDC regarding travel](#).

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- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- With the situation evolving rapidly, we encourage the traveling public and Floridians to follow any guidance offered by the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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Resources:

[U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) travel information and alerts

[World Health Organization](#) - Coronavirus overview and Q&A

Florida Department of Health:

- COVID-19 Call Center (24/7): 1 (866) 779-6121
- Email: COVID-19@flhealth.gov