

GULF COUNTY EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER 20-01

**AN ORDER AND DECLARATION REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF BEACHES
DURING THE COVID-19 LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring that a state of emergency exists throughout the State of Florida due to the spread of COVID-19 in the State and its imminent threat to the health and welfare of Florida citizens;

WHEREAS, the Executive Order, in accordance with Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, authorizes political subdivisions to take whatever prudent action that is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes authorizes political subdivisions to take all necessary action and issue any necessary orders to protect human life; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, by Resolution, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners issued a Declaration of Local State of Emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order 20-68 limiting gatherings on Florida beaches and supporting local beach closures; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners finds that gatherings on Gulf County beaches constitutes a threat to public health and safety and is likely to lead to the spread of COVID-19 and that the immediate enactment of an Emergency Order to temporarily close the beaches in Gulf County is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

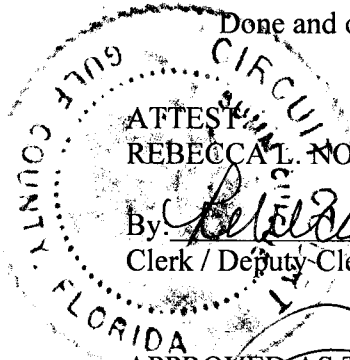
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. All beaches, beach accesses, and parking for beach accesses in Gulf County, Florida are temporarily closed to the public.
2. It shall be unlawful for members of the public to access the beaches in Gulf County.
3. For purposes of this Order the following definitions shall apply:
 - a. "Beach" shall include all sandy beach areas from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the frontal dune, or where there is no frontal dune, to the line of permanent vegetation or construction, whichever is more seaward; and
 - b. "Beach access" shall mean public beach access points, including associated boardwalks, walkways, dedicated parking areas, and the area on the beach beginning at the entrance to the beach.
4. A violation of this Order shall be punished in accordance with the adopted Gulf County COVID-19 Beach Closure Ordinance;

5. This Order shall become effective immediately and shall be in effect for seven (7) days, unless extended by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners.

If any provision of this Order is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Order, which shall continue to have the full force and effect of law.

Done and ordered this 20th day of March, 2020.



ATTEST
REBECCA L. NORRIS, CLERK

By: *Rebecca L. Norris*
Clerk / Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: *Sandy Quinn*
Sandy Quinn, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: *Jeremy T.M. Novak*
Jeremy T.M. Novak, Gulf County Attorney