

# Memo

**To:** PBC Family

**From:** Pastor C.P. Cornelius

**Date:** April 2, 2020

## Regarding the Executive Order of Governor DeSantis

PBC Family,

I am writing to inform you of the Executive Order issued by the Governor of the State of Florida on April 1, 2020 as a measure to address the global spread of the Covid-19. My first obligation as your Pastor, is to ensure the well-being of our congregants through preaching the Gospel and promoting awareness of issues concerning the Body of Christ. As such, I would like to share the following information with you:

On Wednesday, Governor Ron DeSantis issued a mandatory safer-at-home order for the entire state of Florida for the next 30 days. All persons in Florida shall limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities," the order read.

The order also requires senior citizens and individuals with a significant underlying medical condition to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The order will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday. The order is set to end on April 30. Despite repeatedly rebuffing suggestions from state legislators that he should shutdown the state, DeSantis said Wednesday that he made the move after speaking with President Trump.

"I did speak with the president about it," he said. "He agreed with the approach of focusing on the hot spots. But at the same time, he understood that this is another 30-day situation and you gotta just do what makes the most sense."

Therefore, the new guidelines calls for people to practice social distancing through at least April 30.

## **WHICH BUSINESSES/JOBS ARE ESSENTIAL?**

DeSantis said the state would also follow the guidelines outlined by the Department of Homeland Security when it comes to which workers and businesses are considered essential and non-essential.

The following services are also outlined as essential in the executive order:

- Attending religious services
- Participating in recreational activities (in alignment with social distancing guidelines) such as walking, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming (consistent with social distancing guidelines)
- Taking care of pets
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one or friend

With the approval of the State Coordinating Officer and State Health Officer, additional activities could be added to this list. Whenever possible, people are encouraged to work from home.

Some other essential activities were defined as, but not limited to, going to grocery stores, gas stations, health care facilities, pharmacies and childcare centers. That means grocery stores, gas stations, laundromats, assisted living facilities, hotels, pet supply stores, daycares, businesses that provide legal or accounting services among a list of others, are allowed to stay open.

Restaurants are not being forced to close at this time and can still continue offering curbside, take-out or delivery orders. However, the order will prevent people from gathering in those businesses.

## **SO, WHAT CAN I DO?**

To reiterate, here's what you can and can't do:

### *YOU CAN:*

- Go to the grocery store
- Go to the pharmacy
- Go to the doctor (call them before going for instructions)
- Pick up food from a restaurant
- Take your pet to the veterinarian

- Enjoy outdoor activities, such as going for a walk, or jog, as long as you do not gather in a group of more than 10 and stay at least six feet away from each other

*YOU CANNOT:*

- Go to work at any place that is NOT an essential service as defined in the order
- Visit friends or family socially
- Visit someone in a hospital, nursing home, or ALF, except for a few limited exceptions. Please contact the specific facility for further information.
- Gather in groups of more than 10 or be closer than six feet to people.

Local governments are also directed to ensure that groups of 10 or more are not permitted to congregate in any public space.

Again, our concern is for the well-being of all of our congregants and community!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor C.P. Cornelius