

Good morning Business and Citizens' Advisory Councils,

I wanted to provide you all with an update on our response to COVID-19. I am also attaching some resources and links to this email.

The City (Police and Fire included) participates in a daily conference call with the Charlotte County EOC and Department of Health. The Police Department is a member of the Pandemic Committee with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. To reduce exposure of both our employees and the public, we have closed all city buildings to the public. Most business is handled on-line, email, or by phone. The Police Department is handling the majority of non-emergency type calls over the phone. If someone does not have a phone, we will respond, but we will ask them to step outside of their home to increase distancing. Our officers have personal protective equipment. Our dispatchers have been directed to ask a series of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms and if someone indicates they have symptoms, officers and fire personnel will put on the protective equipment. The officers have been provided with wipes and a bleach cleaner to disinfect their equipment and work stations. Dispatchers also must clean their work stations with bleach/wipes each time they take over a console. The Fire Department is also heavily sanitizing their equipment and work areas.

We receive daily updates on the status of COVID-19 cases in Charlotte County. The Florida Department of Health for Charlotte County is the organization that is monitoring all COVID-19 cases in the county. They keep daily checks on the addresses to ensure that people are following quarantine orders. They also keep track of the residents/visitors who arrive from states that are listed in the Governor's Executive Orders (80 and 82) that requires those people to quarantine. DOH is the enforcing entity on that order and will request law enforcement participation if they find someone is in violation. There has been some confusion on this because people believe law enforcement can just go and investigate someone with a New York (or other hot spot state) tag. We are not going to investigate people just because there is a vehicle with out of state tags in the driveway. We will take direction from the DOH on those cases. We have also been questioned on the "temporary vacation rental" Governor's Order (EO 20-87). This order prohibits people from renting homes short-term. Once the Governor issued EO 20-91, there is a provision in that order that states EO 20-91 follows the Miami Dade order on essential businesses. The Miami Dade order considers temporary vacation rentals as an essential business. Either way, law enforcement is not the enforcing agency for EO 20-87 – the Department of Business and Professional Regulation will handle sanctions against property owners. Complaints of violations of this order can be made at the following link:

<http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/eo-complaints/>

Current status: Charlotte County has 55 cases. If you go to the Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard, you can search positive cases by zip code (link is below). For Punta Gorda, the zip code also covers areas across the bridge that are not in the City. I checked the dashboard this morning and we have 10 cases for the entire zip code. If someone suspects a person is positive for COVID-19 and not staying quarantined, or is not abiding by the order to stay quarantined based on Executive Orders EO 20-80 and EO 20-82 (travel into Florida by Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Louisiana), they need to contact the Department of Health. The call center is 866-779-6121 and the email is COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

What to do if you think you have come into contact with a person who has tested positive: self-quarantine and follow all CDC guidelines. People should call their doctor or the County Health

Department to determine if they should get tested. I listed the number to Charlotte Department of Health below.

[Main Office - Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County](#)

1100 Loveland Boulevard
Port Charlotte, FL, FL 33980

- [941-624-7200](tel:941-624-7200)
- CharlotteWebmaster@flhealth.gov

My personal plea: People need to do their part and abide by the Executive Orders. EO 20-91 has several parts to it, but basically, it is SAFER at home. A social gathering is NOT an essential activity per the Governor's Order. People should not be attending public gatherings of more than 10 people and they still must stay 6 feet from each other. No socializing, congregating, etc. is allowed in **city parks or public spaces** – they can exercise, but cannot lounge or sit. I am attaching a FAQ document for Order 20-91, but I am asking that people protect each other and protect our first responders by not going out if it is not essential. Your Punta Gorda Police Department is responsible for enforcing the Safer at Home order, but we don't want to charge people with violating the order. What we want is to have people voluntarily comply with the order – that keeps us safe too. We need to get through this and the more we expose each other, the longer this is going to last. Let's all work to flatten the curve and save lives. The City puts out a lot of information on social media and our website. Please keep checking that to see if there is anything new. The link is: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/advanced-components/covid-19-microsite>

Links to Florida Health Department Dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/96dd742462124fa0b38ddedb9b25e429>

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/#latest-stats>

Please let me know if you have any questions. Stay safe and please stay healthy!

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