

Levy County Emergency Management

Thursday March 20, 2020

Morning COVID-19 Update

Levy County is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation throughout not only Levy County, but the whole State. As information comes in fast and every changing, the BEST WAY to get the MOST UP-TO-DATE information is to visit

WWW.FLORIDAHEALTHCOVID19.GOV

COVID-19 24/7 Call Center at 1-866-779-6121

Report Complaints about Bars and Nightclubs Operating to the Florida Department of Professional Regulation
1-866-532-1440

As of 6pm on March 19th the Florida Department of Health reports **NO CONFIRMED LEVY COUNTY CASES**

Current Statewide Situation as of March 19th at 6pm

432 Confirmed Cases Statewide

9 Deaths

For the latest Press Releases from the Florida Department of Health
Visit

www.FloridaHealth.gov/Newsroom

Levy County Situational Update

Resources for the Public

- Levy COVID19 Text Opt-In Service Open-Text CVUPDATE to 888777
- Free Children's Meal Locator Service Open-Visit www.SummerBreakSpot.FreshFromFlorida.com for more info
- Emergency Bridge Loans, SBA Loans, and other business assistance located at www.LevyDisaster.biz
- SBA Working Capital Loans for Business: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
- Reemployment Assistance available to qualified residents: Visit www.FloridaJobs.org for more info
- Updates on State actions can be found at www.FloridaDisaster.org
- Updates on County Emergency Actions can be found at www.LevyDisaster.com

Closures and Restrictions

- CDC/White House guidance recommends avoiding crowds of 10 or more people
- Several businesses have adjusted their hours to meet current needs or as a result of Governor DeSantis Executive Orders. Please contact your local business for adjusted hours
- Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities have severe visitation restrictions. Contact them before attempting to visit
- All Jury Trials and Jury Duty is currently suspended
- Schools are closed until April 15th
- On-Site inmate visitation at the Levy County Jail is suspended
- Levy County Tax Collector has closed their Chiefland and Williston Offices
- Levy County Tax Collector is only accepting walk-in business from Levy County Residents
- Levy County Property Appraiser is requesting residents to CALL 352-486-5222 or email info@levypa.com before arriving
- Department of Agriculture has suspended new licenses and renewals for Concealed Weapons Permits due to staff shortages
- Levy County Animal Services will not be taking any owner releases until further notice

- **UF/IFAS Meetings have been postponed**

- Most community events have been cancelled. Contact the event organizer for more information
- Levy County Solid Waste has suspended recycling trailers until further notice
- County Library Programs have been cancelled
- Many municipalities have canceled/rescheduled public meetings. Contact your municipal town halls for more information
- CareerSource Offices in Levy, Citrus, and Marion are closed to the public. Visit www.careersourceclm.com for more information
- Senior Centers and meal sites suspended until April 1st. Call 386-362-4115 ext 223 for more info
- Hospital facilities have enacted strict visitation and access guidelines. Call your local hospital for more information

Standard prevention suggestions from the CDC

- 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 into a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
- 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 hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more people

Public text-in line open

Residents and visitors can text **CVUPDATE to 888777** to receive regular updates on Levy County specific COVID-19 issues. Please note, this does not replace emergency alerts. Emergency information will still go through the normal AlertLevy Emergency Notification System

Information from the Courts

- All jury trials are suspended from March 16 through March 27.
- Speedy Trial time limits are suspended during this time.
- All rules limiting the use of communication equipment to conduct hearings are suspended during this time
- Judges allow inmates to appear by videoconference from the jail in all proceedings whenever possible.
- Judges allow the presence of Defendants to be waived, whenever possible.
- Judges, Court Staff, Clerks of the Court, and Court Security jointly develop a plan for the handling of any mass dockets for which they are responsible, which allows for the separation of those waiting to be heard into smaller groups through the use of additional “waiting courtrooms” or hallways.

Update from the School Board

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has directed all districts to develop plans to serve students in the event that normal school operations are not resumed after spring break. FLDOE has named these Instructional Continuity Plans.

All staff shall report to their regular worksite on Thursday, 3-19-20 in order to work on this plan, and on school cleaning. Normal work hours will be followed for this date. The School Board of Levy County is working with the Levy County Department of Health to complete both a comprehensive cleaning of all school sites, as well as ongoing cleaning practices designed to reduce the risk of viral spread. Principals may make adjustments to this schedule as needed.

Food Service

The School Board of Levy County will provide meals at no cost to all **children 18 years of age and under or to Students with Disabilities 21 years of age and under**. This includes children attending private school, charter or home schools. Food distribution in bags consisting of breakfast and lunch meals for five (5) days will be delivered to all current bus stops this Thursday, (3-19-20), between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. The District will attempt to call parents at each stop before the bus arrives. This will not continue during the pre-existing Spring Break (03-23-20 to 03-27-20).

Additionally, meals for children 18 and under will be available for pick up in the parent loop on the same day between the hours of 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM at the following 5 locations: Bronson Elementary School, Chiefland Elementary School, Williston Elementary School, Cedar Key School and Yankeetown School. Again, this will not continue during the pre-existing Spring Break (03-23-20 to 03-27-20).

If normal school operations do not resume after Spring Break, plans will be developed to extend these services.

Report Cards for the 3rd 9-Weeks

Individual schools will send out messages to parents regarding availability of report cards for pickup. Skyward will be available for parent access to current grades and attendance as well.

Update from the Sheriff's Office

Sheriff McCallum along with members of his command staff were involved in multiple briefings today as they relate to the COVID – 19 virus. Currently there are no confirmed reported cases of COVID – 19 in Levy County but all preparations to prevent the spread of this virus are being taken to ensure the public's safety and the safety of those in custody.

Based on information obtained during these meetings Sheriff McCallum has decided, in the abundance of caution, to suspend all ON-SITE visitations with persons in the custody of the Levy County Detention Facility. Family and friends of individuals in custody are still able to contact loved ones by phone and on-line video visitation. The instruction on how to establish a Securus account to be able to receive phone calls and create an on-line visitation account can be found at www.levyso.com and follow the links in the Divisions/Detention Bureau section.

COVID – 19 has interrupted multiple public access and some criminal court processes in Levy County. The most up-to-date information on county facility operation closures can be located at www.levydisaster.com. The Levy County Sheriff's Office works diligently alongside the Levy County Emergency Management Department to mitigate any and all disasters that affect the citizens of Levy County. Sheriff McCallum is committed to ensure the safety of all citizens of Levy County, including those who are in custody and the employees of this office.

Update from the Levy County Tax Collector

DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN FLORIDA AS A RESULT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WE ARE CLOSING THE CHIEFLAND AND WILLISTON BRANCH OFFICES, THE BRONSON OFFICE WILL REMAIN OPEN, "WE ASK THAT IF YOUR TRANSACTION CAN BE COMPLETED OVER THE PHONE OR ONLINE SUCH AS TAG RENEWALS OR PAYING PROPERTY TAXES TO PLEASE CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE " IF YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT THE TRANSACTION YOU HAVE PLEASE CALL (352) 486-5172 OR EMAIL levytaxcollector@levytaxcollector.com.

Due to office shortages, Levy County Tax Collector's Office will only accept walk-ins from Levy County Residents

Due to multiple office closures, the Department of Agriculture is not issuing new or renewals on Concealed Weapons Permits

ALL DRIVING TEST HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!

Update from Levy County Property Appraisers Office

Due to the serious situation our communities are experiencing with the COVID – 19 virus The Levy County Property Appraiser’s Office is encouraging any residents who have need to do business with our office to CALL us first (352-486-5222) or email at info@levypa.com. If you need to file for an Exemption, Agriculture classification or a Tangible Personal Property return, we will do all we can to help you accomplish these things without having to make a visit to our office. We take great pride and joy in serving the needs of our residents and enjoy each opportunity to have personal interaction with our citizens, but feel at this time for your protection and that of our staff, that it would be best to limit visits to our office. We can help take care of all these needs, by email or regular mail, and not risk anyone being exposed to COVID -19 while doing so. We are working to have all forms and applications put on our website (qpublic.net/fl/levy/) or search Levy County Property Appraiser, and hopefully will have this option soon. We are also postponing all unnecessary field work until such time that it’s determined to be safe again. We truly feel Blessed to have the opportunity to serve our community and hope that these steps will help us continue to provide excellent service to our citizens.

PLEASE DO NOT RELY ON RUMORS

The BEST place to find up-to-date information

WWW.FLORIDAHEALTHCOVID19.GOV

COVID-19 24/7 Call Center at 1-866-779-6121

Department of Business and Professional Regulations: 1-866-532-1440