

# CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH CORONAVIRUS UPDATE SATURDAY, APRIL 11 \*



Atlantic Beach residents and business owners:

All levels of government are working together with this prevailing thought in mind: The risk of getting the disease is directly related to exposure to the virus.

**PLEASE** make every effort to stall the spread of this virus by staying home; washing your hands as many times a day as you can; and reading, following and sharing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) guidelines.

**Last, but never least: Let's all be kind to one another. We'll get through this -- together.**

**(New information in this update is signified with a red asterisk [\*] in the headline.**

The last comprehensive update was April 6. If you experience a problem with any web links or otherwise have any questions or concerns, please email [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us) or call 247-5804. Additional information is available at [www.coab.us/945/coronavirus-information](http://www.coab.us/945/coronavirus-information). Questions: email [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us) or call (904) 247-5804.

## **SAFE/SAFER-AT-HOME EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

These orders do not restrict people's ability to go outside to take a walk or ride a bike; rather, they prevent residents from traveling to businesses deemed nonessential.

- View Gov. DeSantis' order (with details on "essential businesses") [here](#). View FAQs regarding the governor's orders [here](#).
- View Mayor Curry's order [here](#).

## **COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS \***

*(As of April 11, 2020)*

*Sources: Johns Hopkins University; Florida Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management*

- World (*est. pop. 7.8 billion*) – 1,760,978 positive tests; 107,775 deaths
- United States (*est. pop. 331 million*) – 524,576 positive tests; 20,254 deaths
  - Florida (*est. pop. 21.48 million*) – 17,968 positive tests; 438 deaths
    - Duval County (*est. pop. 937,642*): 618 positive tests; 11 deaths
      - Atlantic Beach *est. pop 13,831*): 4 positive tests

### **FEDERAL DRIVE-THRU COVID-19 TESTING SITE \***

The federally sponsored drive-thru COVID-19 testing site is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily at TIAA Bank Field in parking lot J. The Prime Osborn testing site is now free for Duval County residents using the code HERE4YOU on the Telescope app.

Info: [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net).

### **ABOUT WEARING MASKS ...**

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). [Here's information on wearing face coverings – and how to make them.](#)

### **VIRTUAL EGG HUNT \***

Join the City of Atlantic Beach Recreation Department on a Virtual Egg Hunt!  
We've hidden 25 eggs, including five golden eggs on the City website at [www.coab.us](http://www.coab.us).

How many can your family find? Let us know and you'll have a chance to win a gift certificate to a local business. While everyone is welcome to participate (and learn!), prizes are only for Atlantic Beach families whose children 14 and under participate in the Virtual Egg Hunt.

♥ Step 1:

“Like” the City of Atlantic Beach Recreation and Special Events Facebook page and the City of Atlantic Beach Facebook page.

♥ Step 2:

Visit [www.coab.us](http://www.coab.us) and look throughout the site for hidden eggs. Make a list of the title of the pages where you find the eggs.

♥ Step 3:

Send an email by midnight Monday, April 13, to [recreation@coab.us](mailto:recreation@coab.us) with your list. If you live in Atlantic Beach and would like to enter to win a prize, include your address and your participating family members' names, along with the age(s) of the participating children.

Parents, help those kiddos out ... it's fun for the whole family! For more information contact the Recreation office at (904) 247-5828 or email [recreation@coab.us](mailto:recreation@coab.us).

### **LET'S GALLIVANT, SHALL WE? \***

We're all familiar with Beach Avenue's allure to walkers (and joggers and bicyclists and skateboarders and rollerbladers, oh my!). Heck, the Florida Times-Union's Mark Woods – who would know; he walked clear across Jacksonville – declared Beach Avenue to be “perhaps the most pedestrian-friendly street in Duval County.”

Well, for the sake of social distancing and otherwise promoting everyone's health, we've mapped out [six routes for walkers and joggers](#) to consider. We've named them “Heritage Tree Trek”, “Four-Park Promenade”, and “Heart of AB Trace”, “Seaside Stroll and More!”, “Western Walkabout”, and “Glorious Gallivant of Dutton.” Cute names, huh?

(About “Glorious Gallivant of Dutton” ... credit goes to City Manager Corbin. We were rolling with “Dutton Island Stroll” until Mr. Corbin said, and I/we quote: “Can we call the Dutton one ‘Glorious Gallivant’? I just like the word ‘gallivant’.” Thus, it's gallivant. #TrueStory. (BTW, it's alternatively spelled “gallavant” on occasion; we know because it's on the internet.)

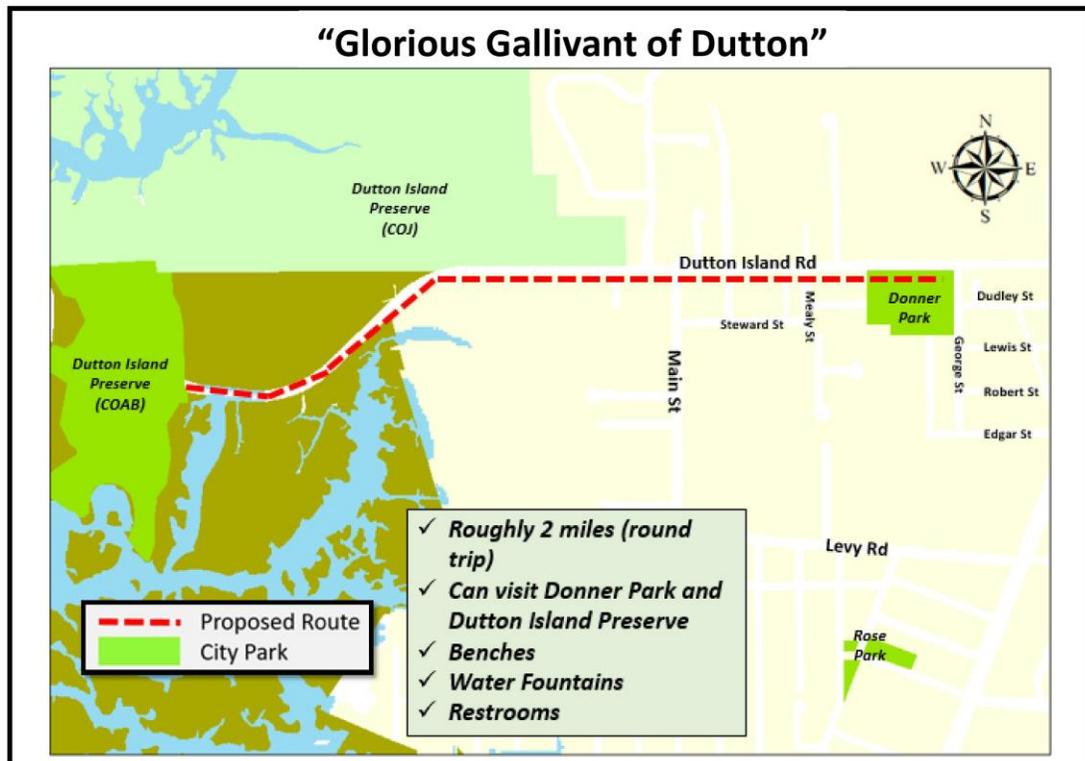
Sorry, we digress; back to our message ... Please, please be flexible; if it's crowded on your route, for everyone's safety, please go to Plan B (or C, D, E or F)!

Will you give the routes a gallivant – and let us know what you think?

(Props to principled COAB Principal Planner Brian Broedell for, well, pretty much doing all of the work on this project.)

Oh, these maps are posted on the aforementioned internet.

See [www.coab.us/961/Walking-Tours-Through-AB](http://www.coab.us/961/Walking-Tours-Through-AB)



### MAYOR’S MESSAGE TO THE AB COMMUNITY \*

Here is an [April 9 video message](#) from Mayor Glasser.

### YARD WASTE PILING UP? MISSED GARBAGE PICKUP? HERE’S THE LIKELY CAUSE \*

Many of our residents are seizing the opportunity to spring clean and do extra yard work. That’s great! But please be patient; it may take longer for Advanced Disposal to pick up what you discard. Also, there’s a limit on how much Advanced

Disposal will pick up. [Here's more info](#). Questions or concerns? Please mail [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us).

### **TIPS/GUIDELINES FOR RESTAURANTS**

- Communicate! Communicate! Communicate! With your customers and your staff!
- Update your business website and social media platforms. Make sure to include (1) new operating hours; (2) current menu; (3) ordering instructions.
- Don't forget to update third-party delivery service menus (i.e. GrubHub, DoorDash)
- Encourage preorders via app, online, phone.
- Go touchless as much as possible. Encourage payment at time of order. Minimize face-to-face interactions.
- Make sure staff is adhering to state-approved food safety sanitation practices. Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces using an EPA-registered product. Refer to product label for directions.
- Offer regular and/or curbside delivery. Ask your customers to wait in their cars until their food is ready.
- Limit the number of customers inside your building. Curbside delivery is encouraged; if that's not an option, meet your customers at the door.
- Designate the wait area with floor markings. Lead Your customers by example by taping the floor or sidewalk with X's spaced 6 feet apart.

### **DIG LOCAL MARKET NOW AT CITY HALL \***

For the time being, the Wednesday and Saturday market is operating from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot at Jack Russell Park. Offering drive-thru contact-free shopping. By shopping Dig Local Network Farmers Market and ordering online with our app, you will be supporting our local farmers, producers/vendors and investing in a healthier and tastier local food community. The market also has an online store. See [www.diglocal.org](http://www.diglocal.org).

### **BEACHES VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE**

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) continues to ensure that many residents continue to have fresh meals for their families during this difficult time. With an increase in need and a decrease in the amount of food donated by its grocery store partners, BEAM is operating a virtual food drive to buy food in bulk for its clients at a reduced cost – and minimize person-to-person contact. Donate here: [www.jaxbeam.org/covid19-donations](http://www.jaxbeam.org/covid19-donations).

### CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

- The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, United Way of Northeast Florida and United Way of St. Johns County are re-activating the **Florida's First Coast Relief Fund**. The fund will assist organizations helping those in Northeast Florida affected by this public health crisis. As with past relief efforts, the fund will be overseen by a grants committee and administered by United Way of Northeast Florida. More than \$2 million has been pledged. <https://unitedwaynefl.org/give/relief-fund/>
- United Way of Northeast Florida's 211 **Helpline** is available 24/7 to connect Northeast Florida callers to health, social, and human services and more than 4,000 community programs. To contact a 211 call center specialist, dial 2-1-1 or 1-904-632-0600 from any landline or cell phone.
- The **Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida's** COVID-19 web page with information and resources is available at the following link: <https://nonprofitctr.org/covid-19/>
- **Lutheran Social Services** is operational Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 12 PM.
- **ElderSource** is accepting calls for individuals (60+), adults with disabilities, and their caregivers to help connect them to resources in the community. Limited funding is available to assist with immediate needs.
- **First Coast YMCA** is offering On Demand Classes & Workouts to help you Stay Healthy From Home. See [www.fcymca.org/new-virtual-services/](http://www.fcymca.org/new-virtual-services/).

### SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- **City of Jacksonville Small Business Lending Program.** The City of Jacksonville and VyStar Credit Union are collaborating on a loan program to assist local small businesses and nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 response. The City's contribution to the Small Business Lending Program will be between \$20 to

\$30 million, which will be used to provide a combination of grants, interest payments and potential aid toward the principal of the loan, with some elements tied to employee retention. Email [JaxReliefLoan@vystarcu.org](mailto:JaxReliefLoan@vystarcu.org) or visit [www.vystarcu.org/coronavirus](http://www.vystarcu.org/coronavirus).

- **Jax Chamber resources for businesses impacted by COVID-19**
- **Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist**
- Gov. DeSantis has activated the **Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program** to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. The application period runs through May 8, 2020. Info: [www.floridadisasterloan.org/](http://www.floridadisasterloan.org/)
- **SBA Disaster Relief Loan (EIDL)** - Loans up to the lesser of 12 months' expenses or \$2 million. 3.75% interest rate, no fees, up to 30-year terms. Any business that has been negatively impacted can apply. You can request an immediate \$10,000 advance once you apply, payable within 3 days. Expected processing time: 3-4 weeks. [Apply here](#).
- **CARES Act** – Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) - Loans up to the lesser of 2.5x average monthly payroll expenses or \$10 million. Up to 4% interest, no fees, 10-year term. No payments are due for a minimum of 6 months. The entire principal can be forgiven if employee counts are maintained. Any business can apply. It is anticipated that loans should be available through any SBA approved lender. SBA guidance on application procedures are forthcoming. Visit [www.treasury.gov/cares](http://www.treasury.gov/cares).

### **ATLANTIC BEACH CITY COMMISSION, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS ...**

The City Commission will hold its scheduled April 13 meeting electronically. The agenda and details about how to listen to, view and make comments are [posted](#)

[here](#). A special electronic City Commission meeting was held Tuesday, March 31. You may [view the meeting here](#).

The Environmental Stewardship Committee will hold an electronic meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 8. Here's the agenda: <https://coab.civicweb.net/document/17872>.

Other board and committee meetings are being planned through the Zoom virtual platform. Updates will be posted at [www.coab.us/945/Coronavirus-Information](http://www.coab.us/945/Coronavirus-Information).

Questions? Email [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us).

### WHAT'S OPEN: PARKS AND PRESERVES

City parks and preserves remain open, although public restrooms are closed. Please be mindful of others' safety by social distancing as you enjoy our fabulous green spaces. AB's parks and preserves are listed here: [www.coab.us/43/Parks](http://www.coab.us/43/Parks).

### WHAT'S CLOSED

- **All city offices and community centers.** Interactions with City staff must be made by telephone (247-5800) or online ([info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us)). Water and sewer customers may put payments in the drop box outside of City Hall, and sign up to pay bills via bank draft at <https://mypayments.bill2pay.com/client/atlantic>. Instead of going to the Police Department, Residents should report minor crimes and complaints by telephone (247-5859), when possible.
- **The beach.** [Mayor Curry issued the order for Duval County's beaches on March 20; effective until further notice](#). Local authorities are patrolling the beach to ensure compliance. Please keep in mind that these are public beaches; as such, there's no provision for them to be open to Beaches residents, only.
- **Tennis, basketball and pickleball courts**
- **Skateboard park**
- **Playground equipment**
- **Public restrooms**

### ABOUT UTILITY BILLS ...

**The City of Atlantic Beach** will not disconnect water customers during this emergency. Also, late fees are now being waived until further notice. If possible,

please pay your bill by setting up an automatic bank draft (visit [www.coab.us/payments](http://www.coab.us/payments)). Visit [www.coab.us/paymentoptions](http://www.coab.us/paymentoptions) to learn about other ways to pay your bill. If you have questions or would like to discuss your bill, call us at 247-5816 or email [customerservice@coab.us](mailto:customerservice@coab.us).

**Jacksonville Electric Authority** also is suspending service disconnections for customers who are unable to pay their bill on time during this emergency.

### **ABOUT BUILDING PERMITS ...**

Based on the governor's and Mayor Curry's executive orders, along with the Florida Building Code, the Building Department has put new procedures and policies in place. Please visit [www.coab.us/799/Building-Dept](http://www.coab.us/799/Building-Dept) for the most current information. This pandemic is unprecedented and these procedures and policies are necessary for the life safety of residents, neighbors, and construction crews. They may change as the situation unfolds.

### **WE APOLOGIZE: SOME OTHER SERVICES MAY BE IMPACTED**

- City employees continue to work very hard to serve our residents. Essential services – particularly public safety and the City's water and sewer utility – have been unaffected by the pandemic. However, we may be slower answering the phone and some services – including but not limited to the upkeep of parks, along with response times to inquiries – may be impacted during this emergency.
- Our top priorities are the well-being of our employees and you – our residents. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.
- If you are having difficulty contacting the City, please email [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us) or call 247-5804 (and leave a message if it is not immediately answered).

### **EVENTS CANCELED**

City-permitted and City-sanctioned events at community centers and parks are suspended until further notice. Refunds are available for City-permitted events. Arts in the Park has been tentatively rescheduled from April 18 to Oct. 3. Dancin' in the Streets has been canceled.

### **ORDERS: FEDERAL, STATE, DUVAL COUNTY AND ATLANTIC BEACH**

## Federal

- March 13 - [Federal State of Emergency Declaration](#)
- March 16 - [CDC Group/Distancing Guidelines. "15 Days to Slow the Spread"](#)
- March 25 - [Federal Disaster Declaration for Florida](#)

## State of Florida:

- March 1 - [State Public Health Emergency Declared](#)
- March 9 - [State Declaration of Emergency](#)
- March 17 - [No Bars, Restaurant Occupancy, Beach Guidelines](#)
- March 20 - [No Alcohol Sales on Premises, Suspend Bar & Restaurant Sales on Premises, Close Gyms](#)
- March 20 - [Non-essential Medical Procedures Halted](#)
- March 20 - [Local Government Meeting Rules](#)
- March 20 - [Closures of Certain Beaches and Other Establishments](#)
- March 24 - [Health Advisory for Those with Serious Underlying Conditions, Gathering Size, Work Remotely](#)
- March 24 - [Isolation Order for New York Flyers](#)
- March 26 - [Telehealth and Immunizations for State Group Health Insurance](#)
- March 27 - [Additional Travel Restrictions](#)
- March 27 - [Vacation Rental Closure](#)
- March 30 - [Re-employment of Essential Personnel](#)
- March 30 - [Restrict Access in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, & Monroe Counties](#)
- April 1 - [Amending Safer at Home](#)
- April 1 - [Safer at Home](#)

## Duval County:

- March 13 - [County Declaration of Emergency](#)
- March 16 - [Occupancy and Alcohol Sales Limitations](#)
- March 20 - [County Beach Closure](#)
- March 23 - [Work From Home/Remote Work Requirements](#)
- March 30 - [Hotel, Motel, Lodging Restrictions to Essential Personnel](#)
- April 1 - [Safer at Home order](#)

## City of Atlantic Beach:

- March 13 - [City Declaration of Emergency](#)
- March 16 - [No Alcohol Sales Between 12 Midnight - 8 am](#)
- March 27 - [Order to Suspend Meeting Rules for Place and Physical Quorum](#)
- April 3 - [City Declaration of Emergency](#)
- April 3 - [Order to Suspend Meeting Rules for Place and Physical Quorum](#)

### **DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**

- This federally funded benefit program is available to assist individuals who become unemployed because of a disaster. Info: [floridajobs.org](http://floridajobs.org).

### **WANT TO HELP SOMEONE WITH THEIR ATLANTIC BEACH UTILITY BILL?**

A lot of people can certainly use your help these days. See <http://www.coab.us/634/Atlantic-Beach-Cares-Program>

### **PLEASE DON'T FLUSH DISINFECTING WIPES**

Please remember that only toilet paper and human waste should go down your toilet. Flushing anything else, including paper towels and disinfecting wipes, can damage the public wastewater system and create dangerous (and disgusting) blockages called fatbergs. Check out this JEA video:

[www.jea.com/about/wastewater/what\\_not\\_to\\_flush/](http://www.jea.com/about/wastewater/what_not_to_flush/)

### **STRUGGLING EMOTIONALLY?**

FLBlue has a 24-hour, bilingual emotional support helpline to assist Floridians with any stress they may be feeling during the #COVID19 pandemic. If you're feeling stressed, contact the helpline at (833) 848-1762.

### **CORONAVIRUS SAFETY REMINDERS**

- Citizens who are experiencing symptoms or feel they may have the virus are encouraged to call or make a virtual appointment with a physician before going to a hospital or doctor's office. Continuous updates about the local response to COVID-19 are available at [www.JaxReady.com/Virus](http://www.JaxReady.com/Virus).

- As the City continues to monitor the situation, please follow these Florida Department of Health guidelines on preventing exposure to the virus:
  - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Refrain from shaking hands.
  - Maintain a 6-foot distance from people.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you are sick.
  - Avoid gatherings; don't shop at peak times
  - Take advantage of delivery and pickup services.
  - Avoid unnecessary travel.
  - Work remotely, if possible.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- **Subscribe to City e-newsletters** by emailing [info@coab.us](mailto:info@coab.us), and visit [www.saferwatchapp.com/atlanticbeach](http://www.saferwatchapp.com/atlanticbeach) to receive emergency notifications.
- The **Florida Department of Health** (FDOH) COVID-19 Call Center can be reached at (866) 779-6121 or [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov). It is staffed around-the-clock.
- The City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division has been closely monitoring updates related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The outbreak of coronavirus has now spread to 100 countries including the United States, with the majority of reported cases in China. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) confirm that local transmission is occurring across the United States. Read Frequently Asked Questions and Answers regarding COVID-19: <http://www.coj.net/covid19faq>
- **Duval County Public Schools** is handing out dinner in addition to breakfasts and lunches. Pickup time for all meals are between 11 AM and 1 PM, M - F. Follow [this link](#) for a list of the schools where meals can be up. Monitor [www.dcps.duvalschools.org/coronavirus](http://www.dcps.duvalschools.org/coronavirus) for updates.
- **Bartender Emergency Assistance Program:** <https://www.usbgfoundation.org>

- **Price gouging hotline:** Anyone who suspects price gouging can call the Florida Attorney General's Office hotline at (866) 9-NO-SCAM, download the NO SCAM app, or visit MyFloridaLegal.com.
- **Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Map:**  
<https://fdoh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/8d0de33f260d444c852a615dc7837c86>
- Visit [www.coab.us/945/Coronavirus-Information](http://www.coab.us/945/Coronavirus-Information) for updates, FAQs, resources, and other helpful links. Updates also are posted on the City's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CityofAtlanticBeach](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAtlanticBeach)
- Senior Medicare Patrol has [this Consumer Protection Tip Sheet](#) related to COVID-19 Medicare fraud.

**MORE COVID-19 INFO AT [WWW.COAB.US/945/CORONAVIRUS-INFORMATION](http://WWW.COAB.US/945/CORONAVIRUS-INFORMATION),  
[INFO@COAB.US](mailto:INFO@COAB.US), OR (904) 247-5804**

#WeAreAB

#WeAreInThisTogether

#Coronavirus

#COVID-19

#FlattenTheCurve