

March 19, 2020

**Escambia County Commission**

Jeff Bergosh, County Commissioner District 1  
Doug Underhill, County Commissioner District 2  
Lumon May, County Commissioner District 3  
Robert Bender, County Commissioner District 4  
Steven Barry, County Commissioner District 5

Dear Commissioners,

In order to protect our residents and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we strongly urge you to take measures that will drastically limit the ability for people to congregate. The time is now for all of us to take actions that will encourage social distancing. In addition to the measures the Governor has already put in place, and consistent with many county commissions throughout the state and in neighboring Alabama, we recommend you take swift action in the following areas and are certain there are others you are aware of that could be added to the list:

- Prohibit on-premise consumption at all restaurants. Immediately convert all restaurants to take-out only.
- Restrict all permitted public gatherings and events, not just those with 50 or more participants.
- Close the beach to public traffic.
- Continue closures of community centers.
- Close libraries, or repurpose for a higher use during this time.

As you know, this situation is very fluid and continues to evolve. We recommend these closures occur immediately and initially for 2 weeks. This will drastically reduce the opportunity for spread of COVID-19 and can continue to be reviewed as the situation evolves.


All hospital systems and our county health department stand united in this recommendation for the protection of our community.

In unison,



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Mark Faulkner, President & CEO,  
Baptist Health Care




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Dawn Rudolph, President,  
Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital



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Gay Nord, CEO,  
West Florida Hospital



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John J. Lanza, MD, Director,  
Florida Department of Health in Escambia County