

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Village of El Portal: State of Emergency: COVID-19

March 26, 2020

Dear El Portal Residents:

I am writing to update you on the Village of El Portal's ongoing Corona Virus (COVID-19) Response.

We know there are three ways to defeat this disease: testing/treatment, good hygiene, and social distancing.

Medical experts have stated the Corona Virus is very contagious, so we must do more in the way of social distancing. As such, we are all "Safer at Home."

During a global pandemic, the Village of El Portal follows the Miami-Dade County Protocol. Since Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez has signed ten different Emergency Orders. All these Emergency Orders can be found on our Village of El Portal Website at: [elportalvillage.com](http://elportalvillage.com)

Also, during this major disaster, I declared a State of Emergency within the Village of El Portal, which, among other requirements, we have asked all our residents to practice social distancing and for everyone to consciously take personal responsibility to stop the viruses spread; and if you can stay home, please stay home.

This request is in exact parallel with what the national and local medical experts are telling us to stop this pandemic:

In addition, out of an abundance of caution, we have temporarily closed The Village Tot Lot, cancelled community events, and closed certain businesses, including forcing the temporary closure of all non-essential retail and commercial establishments, until further notice - as stated in Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 7-20

This is designed to protect the health and well-being of residents in El Portal, Florida as well as the greater Miami-Dade County. Again, it is designed to emphasize "social distancing" in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

All persons residing within the Village of El Portal should remain in their homes during this state of emergency, and should only really move about if they meet one of the county exemptions for essential Retail and Commercial Activities, as defined in Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 07-20. These essential retail and commercial activities include grocery stores; convenience stores; food distribution centers; restaurants (for take-out and delivery only), hospitals, pharmacies, and health care providers. A full list of exempted essential business are listed on Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 7-29, dated March 19<sup>th</sup>.

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As such, all public and private gatherings of more than 10 people occurring outside a El Portal residence are not allowed, except for the exempted activities above, as stated in Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 10-20.

Also all travel, including, but without limitation: travel on foot, by bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, or automobile, or the use of public transit is strongly discouraged. Except for outdoor activities and recreation in areas not otherwise closed to the public, provided that the people do not congregate in groups of 10 or more, they must maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet between each other. This includes, but without limitation: walking, hiking, running, or cycling. Please continue to do this, but please do it safely.

In coordination with Miami-Dade County, at-home meal delivery service to our senior community has been implemented, and they have received their first meal on Thursday, March 19th.

As President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, I have been working with the Executive Board to come to a consensus on common language to supplement and support a Miami-Dade County Mayor Emergency Order, whereby Miami-Dade municipalities would support and parallel, so that 'we' as municipalities can stand together to deliver a consistent unified message to our residents, ensuring the health and welfare of our residents, not just in our respective cities, towns, or villages, but in our Miami-Dade County!

Lastly, our Village Police Department will be "proactive" in encouraging citizen compliance with these common-sense actions.

Bottom Line: If you can, please stay at home; until we see data that shows we have minimized the impact the spread of this virus as well as the surge impact on local hospital systems.

Thank you for your cooperation with these common-sense directives, and please continue to be safe! Again, your Village government is working around the clock to ensure the safety of our citizens and to help our community get through this state of emergency the best way possible.

Please keep the faith and blessings to you all!

Yours in Service,

Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos  
Village of El Portal, Florida

P.S. while you are 'Safer at Home' in our beautiful Village, enjoy reading the Village's Winter 2020 Newsletter, printed before COVID-19 took over

cc: Village Council, Village Manager, Village Attorney, Chief of Police, Village Clerk