



With the rapid dissemination of COVID-19 information this week, VISIT FLORIDA is committed to ensuring you remain as informed as possible as we assist in our state's emergency response efforts.

### **Beaches, Bars & Restaurants**

On March 17, Governor Ron DeSantis issued [Executive Order 20-68](#) to reduce density and crowds in restaurants, bars, nightclubs and beaches to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Please refer to [Florida's Department of Business & Professional Management \(DBPR\)](#) for more information and guidance.

### **Small Business Bridge Loans**

On March 16, Governor Ron DeSantis 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), provides short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Damage Assessment Survey**

Governor Ron DeSantis has activated the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by DEO, will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The survey can be taken online at [www.floridadisaster.biz](http://www.floridadisaster.biz).

### **Reemployment Assistance**

Governor DeSantis has reminded Floridians that if their employment has been negatively impacted because of mitigation efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, these Floridians may be eligible to receive Reemployment Assistance. [Click here](#) for more information.

**VISIT FLORIDA has taken the following action in response to COVID-19:**

- VISIT FLORIDA is focused on providing health and safety information to travelers and Floridians. All media has been paused.
- VISIT FLORIDA has activated Florida Now, which includes the latest updates from state emergency response professionals hosted on VISITFLORIDA.com.
- VISIT FLORIDA is actively planning for future marketing campaigns to ensure that Florida's tourism industry has a strong, unified voice following COVID-19
- To protect the health and safety of the traveling public and staff, VISIT FLORIDA's four welcome centers will be closed until further notice.
- VISIT FLORIDA is tracking traveler sentiment across online platforms and social media to monitor how COVID-19 may impact travel and travel booking to Florida.

**Florida's residents and visitors should continue to refer to the DOH and CDC for the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19:**

**Florida Department of Health (DOH)**

- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- COVID-19 Call Center: 1-866-779-6121 (available 24/7)
- [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov)

**U.S. Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC)**

- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)