

Halsey Beshears, Secretary

Ron DeSantis, Governor

May 22, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Michael S. Merrill
County Administrator, Hillsborough County
PO Box 1110
Tampa, Florida 33601-1110
MerrillM@hillsboroughcounty.org

RE: DBPR Approval of County Plan for Vacation Rental Operations

Dear Mr. Merrill:

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation received your correspondence, dated May 19, 2020, requesting approval to permit the operation of vacation rentals in Hillsborough County pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 20-123 as issued by Governor Ron DeSantis on May 15, 2020.

Based on the Department's review of the safety plan for vacation rental operations that accompanied your request, Hillsborough County has established the necessary plans for operation of vacation rentals at this time. Accordingly, I approve the operation of vacation rentals in Hillsborough County pursuant to the plans as submitted.

For additional information and guidance related to vacation rentals or other businesses regulated by the Department during the ongoing "Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery," I encourage you to monitor the Department's Emergency Information Page, available at: www.myfloridalicense.com/emergency.

As always, please contact the Department if our team can be of further assistance to you on this matter or other inquiries related to Hillsborough County in the future.

Very respectfully,



Halsey Beshears
Secretary, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Hillsborough County, Florida

Plan for Opening Short-term Rentals

May 19, 2020

Hillsborough County recognizes the importance of keeping residents and visitors safe. To safely facilitate short-term vacation rental reservations in the County, the following plan will be implemented to take reservations, and safely operate and maintain vacation rental properties. This plan will be reviewed routinely and updated as necessary. These guidelines, together with applicable standards set by the CDC endeavor to establish best practice to ensure guest safety.

Vacation Rental Reservations from Areas Identified by Executive Order

Vacation rental reservations, from areas identified by Governor DeSantis as high risk, through Executive Orders, must be for periods longer than the quarantine period established in that Order.

Guest Safety/Health

- [CDC Resources](#) must be provided to any guest while staying on the property. These resources are available in multiple languages on the CDC website.
- Employees or contractors working in short-term rentals will be provided CDC related safety guidance to avoid the transmission of the virus and provide further protection for employees and guests.
- Lodging providers should share written [CDC Sanitation Guidance and Resources](#) to any guest while staying in their units.
- Minimize direct guest contact with property owners or managers through remote check-in and check-out procedures.
- Property owners and managers should provide COVID-19 guidance of any local restrictions that are in place during the guest's stay including closures, curfews and other related local information.
- [CDC Animal Guidance](#) must be provided to guests traveling with pets and service/assistance animals if the property is pet friendly.

Staffing Standards and Guidelines

Vacation Rental Management Companies and **Owners** shall strive at all times to adhere to the following guidelines and to the [CDC Guidelines for Employers and Businesses](#).

Social Distancing

- Encourage associates to maintain a safe distance (at least 6 feet) and not to gather in groups of larger than 10 people.
- Stagger arrival times to prevent congregating
- Limit access to break areas and look for areas where staff can spread out for breaks. Allow staff to eat their meals in their assigned areas, where possible.

Acknowledgements

The content in the titled sections of the Addendum above were taken from the Pinellas County Plan, along with other shorter passages and/or references that appear in the body of this Plan. In addition, content from the Bay County Plan appears in this Plan either verbatim or as modified. Hillsborough County wants to acknowledge and recognize both Bay County's and Pinellas County's leadership in creating a model Short-term Rental Opening Plan.

May 19, 2020