



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Sheriff Provides Update on COVID-19

Date: March 13, 2020

Sheriff Al Nienhuis and members of his command staff continue to monitor verified information provided by Governor DeSantis and the Florida Department of Health as it pertains to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Sheriff Nienhuis urges citizens to obtain any and all information on this matter from a verified and trusted source, such as the Florida Department of Health, the CDC, Emergency Management, or your health care provider. Obtaining information from sources that have not been verified could likely cause panic and/or undue stress.

Currently, there are no cases of COVID-19 in Hernando County.

The Florida Department of Health has opened a call center to assist with providing information and answering questions. The toll free number is 866-779-6121.

Everyone can help to prevent the spread of disease by following a few simple steps:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals
- Wash hands often – with soap and water (20 seconds or longer)
- Dry hands with a clean towel or hand dryer
- Avoid touching your face/eyes
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing
- Clean and disinfect “high touch” surfaces often
- Call, before visiting your health care provider

The CDC has provided a list of recommended guidelines, they are as follows:

- Elderly persons with underlying health conditions should avoid cruise ships and/or any travel that is unnecessary
- A 14 day self-isolation and social distancing (avoid going out in public and close personal interactions) upon return to the United States
- Travelers (including cruises) should monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days upon return – If you become symptomatic, immediately self-isolate and contact your county health department or your health care provider if you need medical care
- For more information regarding current CDC travel advisories related to COVID-10, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Sheriff Nienhuis is committed to serving the citizens of Hernando County in the safest and most efficient manner possible. The matter at hand is evolving; the men and women at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office will remain informed and respond accordingly.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.