

Message from Executive Director, Tom Cooper
COVID-19 SOA Update
April 2, 2020

On April 1st the Governor of FL issued Executive Order 20-91 (Essential Services and Activities During COVID-19) requesting all non-essential persons to shelter in place or stay at home effective at midnight on April 2, 2020.

The order is very broad in defining the term "essential work force". It references two documents that each contain a definition of who is considered essential workforce. According to SOA legal counsel's opinion, both definitions apply to the Governor's Order. For your convenience, we have provided a link to the Governor's Executive Order 20-91. [Executive Order 20-91](#)

Many are asking, how does this effect the Sandestin Community and SOA services?

SOA Meetings and Services

As previously communicated, the SOA office will remain closed through April 3. On Monday, April 6, 2020, office staff will be available via telephone and email with an abbreviated schedule for all. This means there will be one staff member available per department, per day, for limited hours to assist the members via email or phone. The office will remain closed to the public and the hours of staff availability will be posted on our website. Assistance with urgent matters outside of these hours can be sent to soa@soaowners.com as management will continue to monitor email.

All April Committee meetings and the April 23, 2020 Regular Board of Directors meeting have been cancelled. The ARB will meet via a video conference on April 15, 2020 to review the pending submittals received to date. The ARB meeting of April 25, 2020 has been cancelled. Dates for SOA May meetings are on the Calendar page of the SOA website and will be sent in the Weekly Update emails. Note, these dates are subject to change.

The lakes and general maintenance staff will also be working an abbreviated schedule to address any urgent maintenance matters. While Security and Sanitation will be reducing their personnel to limit interaction amongst staff, the current level of service will not change, with the exception of the following:

- Security will no longer be entering residences unless it's an emergency
- The Owner's lane at each gate will be RFID access only
- The East gate will close at 9:30 p.m. with RFID access only

With this order in place, Walton County has advised that recycling services are immediately being suspended. The recycle dumpster will be removed from Administration Drive and return when the order is lifted. Effective immediately, all recyclables should be disposed of in the same manner in which you dispose of household garbage. (IE: community trash bin, bagged and placed curbside, or trash chute)

Access for Non-Essential Workers

The SOA has received calls regarding how we are approaching allowing access to "non-essential work force" persons.

From an access perspective, and based on definition, almost anyone that currently is authorized, has access. This includes contractors, appliance repair persons, housekeepers, landscapers, nurses, etc. The number of persons seeking access, that should not have access, is minimal and will be handled on a case by case basis. To ensure there is no confusion with a guest you may be expecting, please make sure you register all guests prior to their arrival, as currently required by Security. (Guest Registration Website by [clicking here](#) or from the home page of the SOA website)

It is important as an owner to remember that should the SOA initiate a total lock down of the Resort, this would have to include everyone. We cannot be discriminatory. Your guest, your housekeeper, your computer repair person, all would not be allowed access, and the defined essential services would be denied.

It is imperative to also understand that your neighborhood or condominium association may establish access guidelines specific to that property. In that event, communication with our security team is important as we can then be your first defense in access control.

As a reminder, this information as well as other SOA COVID19 Updates are available on the home page of our website. It also includes links to the official sites you should rely on for accurate information regarding this pandemic. www.sandestinowners.com.

We apologize for any inconvenience these changes may cause and hope you understand that they are necessary for the safety of our staff and membership. Like all of you, we hope these measures will allow this pandemic to come to an end and we can all return to our normal schedules and lives.

Please feel free to reach out to us should you have any questions or concerns.

Stay well –
Tom Cooper
Executive Director