

The first COVID-19 case in Hendry County was announced Saturday, March 28. The case is a young woman who resides in Clewiston. The notification from Hendry County can be found at the end of this message. On the same day, we all received an emergency alert from the Florida Surgeon General asking people who are 65 and older or have medical conditions to stay home. It also reminded everyone to follow social distancing

This first case in our county and the message from the Surgeon General should remind all of us how important it is to continue our efforts to avoid contracting and spreading the virus. We are taking this opportunity to remind you of safe practices:

- 1) Most importantly, be diligent in keeping yourself healthy: get plenty of rest, drink plenty of water, wash your hands often, keep surfaces clean and avoid people that are sick.
- 2) If you are sick, stay at home and do not use RiverBend amenities or attend social gatherings.
- 3) If you have traveled away from RiverBend in an area with high numbers of cases, including Orlando, Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville, please self-isolate for two weeks when returning to RiverBend. If you are outside getting fresh air or taking a walk, make sure to keep your social distance of 6 feet from others should you encounter someone.
- 4) Collier and Lee County both have higher numbers of cases. Should you need to travel into Fort Myers or Naples, be aware of social distancing and use of hand sanitizers.
- 5) The Creation's Guild is open. If you are using the Creation's Guild, exercise social distance guidelines at all times. These are no gatherings larger than 9 people and maintain a distance of 6 feet between individuals and groups. If you intend to use the Creations Guild, please bring your own disinfecting wipes as we are currently unable to stock them in the building.
- 6) The Pool is open and below are social distancing guidelines as applied to the pool area.
 - If you are meeting with others around the pool, the group cannot be larger than 9 people.
 - Keep a distance of approximately 6 feet between individuals – for example you might pull a couple of tables together and space yourselves around this larger area.
 - Each individual group within the pool area should be spaced apart from each other by at least 6 or more feet.
 - When you are in the pool, keep a distance of 6 feet between swimmers.
 - Rotate in and out of the pool so that everyone has a chance to cool off and maintain the appropriate spacing.
 - Bring wipes to clean off surfaces and floats before and after you use them.
- 7) The exercise rooms are open.
 - Only one person at a time can use the room with cardio equipment.
 - Bring your own wipes and clean the equipment well before and after use.
 - For the larger room with the weights, please keep at least 6 feet between users while working out and clean bar handles and weights before and after use.
- 8) Our regular Vendors have been given guidelines regarding screening their crews and maintaining social distance in the community. Should you have interactions with vendors, please be conscious to maintain your social distance.

With diligence and care we can continue to enjoy our RiverBend community and avoid contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Thank you all for your efforts and keep up the good work.

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Hendry County Notified of Positive COVID-19 Case

(March 28, 2020) – LaBelle, Fla. – Hendry County officials have been notified by the Florida Department of Health (DOH) that a resident of Hendry County has tested positive for COVID-19.

The safety and wellbeing of Hendry County residents remains the highest priority and Hendry County officials strongly urge residents to continue following the guidance provided by the CDC and DOH in order to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home as much as possible
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect surfaces often
- If you are sick, call your medical provider or local health department