



PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Leading The Way For A Safer Pinellas"

Resolution 20-20

“Safer at Home”

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri



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The County's Safer at Home Order took effect at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday March 25, 2020.

The order completely closes certain places (pools), requires that people stay at home as much as they can and allows businesses to operate as essential or because they adhere to CDC guidelines.

We immediately began enforcement of the order by educating the public through the media and social media.



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The order directed retail businesses in Pinellas County to display a sign notifying people of their social distancing and other safe practices obligations under the order.

In less than 48 hours, between Thursday March 25th and Saturday March 27th, over 200 deputy sheriffs and over 50 police officers from some of the city police departments personally posted 14,200 notices on the front doors of retail establishments throughout the county.



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NOTICE



Per Resolution No. 20-20 "COVID-19 — Safer at Home" Order approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Effective noon on **March 26, 2020**, all persons, including employees and patrons, within this business shall strictly adhere to the CDC Social Distancing Guidelines, including but not limited to:

- Persons **shall not** congregate in groups, and groups of more than 10 are prohibited.
- All persons not part of the same family unit **must remain at least 6 feet apart**.
- Persons in a line **must adhere** to these requirements.

Violation of these requirements is a crime punishable by incarceration and/or a fine. Businesses in violation may be subject to closure.

To report a violation of these requirements, please call:
727-582-TIPS (8477)



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The deputies and officers also distributed an FAQ sheet to that was prepared by the County and PCSO to inform people of their obligations and to answer their questions.

The FAQ sheet was distributed via email, websites, and social media.

Deputies also hand delivered closure notices to over 2,800 pools throughout Pinellas County and compliance letters to 38 golf courses letting them know of their obligations.



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On Friday March 25, 2020, Commissioner Gerard, Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos, Clearwater Police Chief Dan Slaughter and I held a press conference at Clearwater Mall where we posted the notices on businesses to draw community attention to the Safer at Home order and to help educate the public on their obligations.

I produced a PSA for social media and for television that was posted last week and the television PSA began running this past Tuesday. The PSA is airing this week on many news channels to help get the word out and to educate the public.



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The posters and social media posts informed the public of a tip line (727-582-TIPS) where they could call to report violations of the Safer at Home order and to ask questions about compliance.

PCSO established a call center to receive the tips and it is staffed with 18 deputies from 7:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week.

As of April 1, 2020, the call center has received 460 tip line complaints and it receives approximately 185 inquiry calls a day. This is in addition to the County's CIC.



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In conjunction with establishing the tip call center, PCSO established 6 response teams throughout the county that work from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. 7 days a week. There are over 20 deputies on the teams and they respond to calls received by the tip center and they complete proactive compliance checks.

PCSO is responding to tip center calls throughout the county and focusing our compliance checks in the 13 contract cities and the unincorporated area. I asked all the cities with police departments to monitor the situation and conduct compliance checks within their cities.



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The following is a categorical breakdown of the tip line complaints alleging violations of the Safer at Home and/or Executive Orders:

Tip Line Complaints	Totals
<i>Golf Course</i>	2
<i>Fitness/ Gym</i>	17
<i>Pools</i>	34
<i>Restaurant</i>	37
<i>Boat/ Island</i>	9
<i>Retail</i>	53
<i>Nail Salon</i>	0
<i>Hair Salon</i>	3
<i>Barbers</i>	1
<i>Massage</i>	0
<i>Non-Retail Business/Professional Offices</i>	59
<i>Other</i>	88

* Totals are from 3/28/20
forward



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Deputies also physically checked every nail salon, hair salon, barber shop and massage establishment to determine whether the business was open or had closed its operations. As of April 1, 2020, we have identified 1,213 of these businesses in Pinellas County and 1,104 have ceased operations.

The following is the breakdown:

Business Type	Open	Closed
<i>Nail Salons</i>	36	350
<i>Hair Salons</i>	16	175
<i>Barbers</i>	20	111
<i>Massage</i>	9	128
<i>Multi-Service</i>	28	340
Total	109	1104



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Of the 460 tips received in the call center, deputies responded to 267 locations. Upon investigation, 49 locations were found to be in violation and no violations were found at 218 places. Violations were found in 11% of the locations checked.

The following is a breakdown by category of locations **with violations**:

Tip Response by Deputies (Violation)	Count
<i>Golf Course</i>	0
<i>Fitness/ Gym</i>	1
<i>Pools</i>	13
<i>Restaurant</i>	7
<i>Boat/ Island</i>	3
<i>Retail</i>	3
<i>Nail Salon</i>	0
<i>Hair Salon</i>	0
<i>Barbers</i>	0
<i>Massage</i>	0
<i>Non-Retail Business/Professional Offices</i>	2
<i>Other</i>	17

*Totals are 3/28/20
forward



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The following is a breakdown by category of locations where deputies determined that there was **no violations**:

Tip Response by Deputies (No Violation)	Count
<i>Golf Course</i>	2
<i>Fitness/ Gym</i>	10
<i>Pools</i>	21
<i>Restaurant</i>	30
<i>Boat/ Island</i>	2
<i>Retail</i>	24
<i>Nail Salon</i>	1
<i>Hair Salon</i>	3
<i>Barbers</i>	1
<i>Massage</i>	1
<i>Non-Retail Business/Professional Offices</i>	49
<i>Other</i>	52

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3/28/20 forward



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In addition to the tip line responses, **deputies have conducted 4,193 compliance checks.** Violations were found at 67 locations and **no violations found at 4,126 locations.** Only 1.6% of the locations had violations.

The city police departments have conducted compliance checks and all have reported no violations except the St. Pete Police Department, which has reported 55 violations and the Clearwater Police Department that has reported 3 violations.



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Consistent with what PCSO is observing, SPPD and CPD report most of their violations are in recreational areas and the majority of the retail businesses are in compliance with the Safer at Home order, or they immediately become compliant when educated by a deputy or officer.



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Overall we are seeing compliance by the retail establishments. As deputies do their checks the measures they have seen implemented include:

- Limiting the number of people in stores at one time
- Private security keeping people separated in lines while waiting to enter stores
- Closing every other checkout lane
- Periodic intercom messages reminding people to spread out and keep their distance from others
- Marking floors with six foot distances measurements for lines
- Signs reminding people of distancing requirements



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- Signs reminding people of distancing requirements
- Staff wearing reminder notices on their uniforms
- Erecting Plexiglas barriers between customers and cashiers
- Establishing outside pick up lanes
- Lobby areas with taped off chairs to create appropriate spacing between customers



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