**Florida will start lifting stay-at-home orders on Monday, Gov. Ron DeSantis says**

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is seen during a news conference Wednesday, April 29, 2020. [The Florida Channel]

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TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that Florida will start lifting stay-at-home orders starting Monday, with restaurants and shops being allowed to reopen with limited capacity.

In the first phase of a three-phase plan, DeSantis said Florida will closely follow guidelines from the White House. [The order](https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EO-20-112.pdf) does not apply to Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, where the pandemic has hit hardest, however. He said he will consider issuing an order for those counties soon.

Still, starting Monday, the rest of Florida will be allowed to lift some restrictions while keeping others in place, including:

* Keeping schools closed
* Allowing restaurants to open with 25 percent capacity indoors and outdoor seating with six-foot social distancing and parties restricted to 10 or fewer
* Allowing retail stores, museums and libraries to open at 25 percent indoor capacity
* Keeping bars, gyms, spas and salons closed
* Allowing elective surgeries to resume
* Keeping visitors away from nursing homes and long-term care facilities
* Keeping social distancing, including avoiding crowds of 10 or more, in place

Although public life will start to reopen, DeSantis said people are still being encouraged to stay home and obey six-foot social distancing rules while in public.

**Brevard County beach parking reopening Friday, county facilities to reopen soon -** Brevard policy group approved commissioners vote to reopen beaches

First north Brevard County coronavirus drive-thru testing site opens in Titusville

**BREVARD COUNTY, Fla.** – Brevard County’s coronavirus policy group gave the go-ahead Friday after a county commissioners vote the day prior to reopen county beach parking and move ahead with reopening other county building as soon as they can meet the Centers for Disease Control guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

During a special meeting of Brevard County commissioners Thursday, [**leaders voted to start removing the barriers that have blocked county-operated beach parking lots for several weeks.**](https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2020/04/30/brevard-county-commission-votes-to-reopen-parking-at-county-operated-beaches-starting-on-friday/) On Friday, the county’s coronavirus emergency policy group gave the vote the final approval.

As of Friday morning, 289 people in Brevard County have tested positive for the coronavirus, including 48 with severe cases requiring hospitalization and 8 deaths, according to the Florida Department of Health dashboard.

The move means barricades blocking beach parking throughout Brevard County will be removed, beginning Friday. Several area beaches near Patrick Air Force Base are undergoing refurbishment and will remain closed.

Officials said other county facilities will reopen as soon as they are able to meet CDC guidelines of social distancing and personal protective equipment. When libraries reopen they will operate at a capacity of 25% along with other county buildings.