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[Online Version at FloridaBusiness.org](http://FloridaBusiness.org)

COVID-19 Business Resource Center: VolusiaBusinessResources.com

COUNTY ANNOUNCES RELAUNCH VOLUSIA & PHASED REOPENING ACTIONS – On April 29, [Volusia County announced its next steps](#) for a gradual, phased-in reopening of county services and facilities, lifting restrictions on beach activities, opening a limited amount of additional off-beach parking, and providing public access to library computers by appointment. The new relaxed beach rules took effect this past weekend, and residents should continue to heed all COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. Residents in high-risk categories were urged to play it safe to limit their risk of exposure. This phased reopening is part of Relaunch Volusia, which is the county's named plan to reopen services and facilities that were scaled back to mitigate the spread of the virus. The full plan for county government is being finalized and is expected to be a primary topic at [tomorrow's County Council meeting](#). Every division in the county is putting together a phased-in approach. The continued implementation of Relaunch Volusia will largely depend on a continuing reduction in new COVID-19 cases in conjunction with more testing availability and guidance from the Governor's office regarding reopening the state. Information on the State of Florida executive order on phased reopening issued on April 29 can be found [here](#).

CDC REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTION – Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by cleaning and disinfecting is an important part of reopening public spaces and calls for careful planning. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) offers an online document](#) providing a general framework for cleaning and disinfection practices for public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools and homes. In developing your cleaning and disinfection plan, evaluate what kinds of surfaces and materials make up areas to be cleaned. Most surfaces and objects may just need normal routine cleaning while frequently touched surfaces and objects will require cleaning and disinfection. The CDC also offers additional reopening guidance for cleaning and disinfecting in the [Reopening Decision Tool](#). Further cleaning and disinfection guidance includes those for soft [surfaces, electronics and laundry](#).

SCORE WEBINAR: NAVIGATING LONG-TERM UNCERTAINTY AND THE AFTERMATH OF DISRUPTION – Key to any leadership role is the ability to provide a sense of informed direction and a sense of calm when situational demands exceed internal resources. Uncertainty can cause us to feel 'blind' and unsure about our own strengths and intuition. This free webinar, presented by The Crisis Tamer, Lisa Dinhofer, will provide "navigational tools" for working with uncertainty and planning for the aftermath of disruption. [The webinar will take place at 2 p.m. May 7.](#)

GOV. DESANTIS INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REOPENING FLORIDA'S ECONOMY – Governor Ronald DeSantis has invited [comments from Floridians concerning the work of the Reopen Florida Task Force](#) and the safe reopening of Florida's economy. In addition, the comment form allows for file attachments, up to 30 megabytes in size, to accompany submitted remarks.

HURRICANE SEASON IS COMING. IS YOUR BUSINESS READY? – In the midst of managing the difficult business consequences of COVID-19, Florida business owners are also aware that the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is less than five weeks away. The past five seasons have each gotten off to an early start, and early forecasts are in consensus that odds of a busy season have strengthened. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has developed the [Ready Business Hurricane Toolkit](#) to help businesses prepare. The program offers a step-by-step guide to build preparedness and develop a plan to take action to protect employees, protect customers and help ensure business continuity.

MORTGAGE RATE HITS ALL TIME LOW AFTER FED RESCUE – According to HousingWire.com, the average U.S. rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 3.23% last week, the lowest ever recorded by Freddie Mac in a series that goes back to 1971. The rate fell 10 basis points from the prior week after the Federal Reserve (Fed) [spent almost a half trillion dollars buying mortgage-backed securities \(MBS\)](#) to "grease the wheels" of the bond market and reassure investors. The new low beat the prior record – the 3.29% recorded in the first week of March 2020 – by six basis points. [Read the complete article.](#)

BEWARE OF SCAMS AND FRAUD SCHEMES – The Office of Inspector General recognizes that we are facing unprecedented times and is alerting the public about potential fraud schemes related to economic stimulus programs offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). [The SBA does not initiate contact on either 7a or Disaster loans or grants.](#) If you are proactively contacted by someone claiming to be from the SBA, suspect fraud. SBA limits the fees a broker can charge a borrower to 3% for loans \$50,000 or less and 2% for loans \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 with an additional 0.25% on amounts over \$1,000,000. Any attempt to charge more than these fees is inappropriate. Also, look out for phishing attacks/scams utilizing the SBA logo as attempts to obtain your personally identifiable information or to install ransomware/malware on your computer.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to [Joanne Magley](#). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.