



May 15, 2020

The Honorable Halsey Beshears
Secretary
Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1027

RE: Re-opening Vacation Rentals in Osceola County

Dear Secretary Beshears:

As you work with Governor DeSantis to safely re-open the state of Florida, Osceola County respectfully requests that short term vacation rentals in Osceola County be allowed to re-open.

Section 4 of Executive Order 20-123 states that Counties may seek approval to operate vacation rentals with a written request from the County Administrator and the County's safety plan for vacation rental operations submitted to the DBPR Secretary. Please accept this letter as our written request. Should you grant us approval to operate vacation rentals, we will allow operation under the following safety plans for vacation rental operations, plus any additional expanded guidance you may provide as well as comply with all of the Governor's executive orders:

- Property owners and managers shall adhere to all Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) sanitation guidelines that are already in place as addressed under 61C-3.001 Sanitation and Safety Requirements of the transient lodging statutes;
- Property owners and managers shall adopt the CDC related guidelines that are for public spaces, businesses, schools and homes. These re-open guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting expand upon what the State of Florida & DBPR already have in place for safety and sanitation for all lodging. This can be an extra safety measure for protection against the spread of COVID-19. Our short term rental owners and managers are already utilizing such measures and even more stringent cleaning protocols adopted by the industry;
- Property owners and managers shall provide COVID-19 guidance of local restrictions that are in place during the guest stay including closures, curfews, and other related local information. The County will post online where this updated local information can be accessible to lodging operators and guests;
- Property owners and managers shall supply employees and contractors with CDC related safety guidance while operating the short term rental units to alleviate the transmission of the virus and provide further protection for employees and guests;



- Property owners and managers shall supply guests with CDC guidance for guests traveling with pets and service/assistance animals;
- Property owners and managers shall also share CDC resources to any guest while staying in their units. These resources are available in multiple languages at the CDC website;
- All vacation rentals shall follow the SAFEHOME Vacation Rental Housekeeping Professional (VRHP) and Vacation Rental Management Association (VRMA) Cleaning Guidelines for COVID-19 which is both attached and can be found here: <https://www.vrma.org/page/vrhp/vrma-cleaning-guidelines-for-covid-19>;
- Only licensed vacation rentals within a community zoned for vacation rental homes may operate under this reopening plan;
- Existing guests currently in homes may continue to extend their stay;
- Any person coming from a highly-infected area, as defined per the Governor's guidelines, must reserve a minimum stay of 14 nights and follow CDC self-quarantine guidelines; and,
- Vacation rentals may not be used for events or group gatherings that exceed maximum occupancy. Only Guests whose names are on the reservation are authorized to stay in the home. Any Guest having events or group gatherings in the home or exceeding the numbers of authorized Guests will be immediately evicted without refund.

Osceola County and I stand ready to work with you and your staff to discuss or provide you with any additional information you may need to approve our request. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Osceola County thanks you and Governor DeSantis for your continued leadership during this crisis. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Fisher".

Don Fisher
Osceola County Manager