**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-008** **SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

# EXECUTIVE ORDER REGARDING COVID-19 REQUIRING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ADHERANCE TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION GUIDELINES FOR ASSEMBLIES

**WHEREAS,** on March 2, 2020, the Seminole County Chairman executed Executive Order 2020-001, declaring a Local State of Emergency under the provisions of Chapter 72, Seminole County Code, due to the serious health threat to those within the County arising from and related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS,** the Local State of Emergency has been extended four (4) times by Executive Order No. 2020-002, 2020-003, 2020-005, and 2020-007 due to the ongoing health threat to those within the County related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS,** on March 24, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-83 to reinforce the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") guidelines implemented as a part of the "15 Days to Slow the Spread" initiative; and

**WHEREAS,** the Center for Disease Control has released Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) specific to community transmission; and

**WHEREAS,** public health experts have consistently recommended avoiding close physical interaction between people in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, and the CDC has updated and further restricted its distancing guidelines; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 72.6(b)(1), Seminole County Code, grants the Chief Administrator of Emergency Management the authority to impose by Executive Order during a declared Local State of Emergency any reasonably necessary restrictions for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the people and property of Seminole County; and

**WHEREAS,** this Executive Order is issued to protect the health and safety of the citizens, residents and visitors of Seminole County, to assist the healthcare delivery system in its ability to serve those persons infected by COVID-19, and to preserve the public's access to essential services and maintain the operation of critical infrastructure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

**Section 1. Minimum Standards for Places of Assembly.** All Places of Assembly, to include but not limited to: houses of worship, community centers, clubhouses, park pavilions, event halls, theaters of any type, recovery/group therapy programs, associations, social clubs, and fraternal organizations must follow CDC guidelines for community transmission of COVID-19 and the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America as follows:

a) Cancel or postpone in-person gatherings or move to smaller groups
b) Small groups must be limited to ten (10) people or less.
c) Maintain six (6) foot distance between participants during any and all small group gatherings.

**Section 2. Penalties.** Places of Assembly that do not comply with this Order on a consistent basis are subject to monetary fines up to $500 per occurrence, in accordance with Section 72.12, Seminole County Code, and Section 125.69, Florida Statutes (2019). Repeat violations could result in mandatory closure pursuant to Section 72.6(b)(1), Seminole County Code, and other applicable Florida Statutes. This Order is enforceable by any county or municipal law enforcement official, code enforcement official, and emergency management official.

**Section 3. Exceptions.** This Order does not apply to activities of first responders, government, healthcare/medical, veterinarian, shelter/rehab, childcare, utility providers, food preparation, construction, and transit agencies.

**Section 4. Effective Date; Expiration Date.** This Order shall become effective on Wednesday, April 1 at 5:00pm. This Order will remain in effect throughout the Local State of Emergency pursuant to COVID-19, unless earlier rescinded.

**ORDERED** this 1 day of April, 2020; at 1305

By: _____
ALAN HARRIS, Chief Administrator
Office of Emergency Management