



Executive Order 20-71 Update

On March 20, Governor Ron DeSantis issued [Executive Order 20-71](#). This executive order directs all restaurants and food establishments within the State of Florida to suspend on-premises food and alcohol consumption for customers. In addition, the executive order directs the closure of gymnasiums and fitness centers across the state.

The executive order exempts gymnasiums and fitness centers that “are an amenity of a residential building.” ***Despite this exemption, FAA strongly recommends that members close all indoor and outdoor amenities, including fitness centers, in light of the contagious nature of COVID-19 and the CDC’s guidelines regarding social distancing.***

Best Practices to Consider:

The best practices outlined below are for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. FAA members are encouraged to consult an attorney for legal guidance related to COVID-19 and operations.

- The CDC’s [guidelines](#) recommend individuals avoid gatherings of more than 10 people.
 - The number of individuals accessing your amenities at any given time is difficult to control. Therefore, all amenities should be closed to ensure compliance with the CDC guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- It is also important to note, some local governments are enacting more stringent guidelines regarding the operation of nonessential facilities, including gyms and fitness centers.
 - Companies that choose to keep fitness centers open are advised to regularly check city and county emergency actions to ensure compliance with local restrictions, which may be more stringent than the governor’s executive order.

- It is recommended that you clearly communicate the reason for the temporary closure to your residents. For example, you could have signage in common areas to communicate why the amenity spaces are temporarily closed and/or you could send an email to residents with the same information.
- If your company charges a separate “amenity fee” in addition to the monthly rent, it is considered a best practice to waive or remove this fee while the amenities are closed.
- It is highly recommended that amenity spaces be properly cleaned and sanitized before they are reopened.

Sample Letter Re: Executive Order 20-71

Dear Resident,

We would like to take this opportunity to share important information regarding the temporary closure of our amenities.

Out of an abundance of caution, the following amenities will be closed until further notice:

- (INSERT LIST OF AMENITIES).

As you may know, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) has encouraged individuals to avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The amenity spaces at (INSERT APARTMENT COMMUNITY NAME) are temporarily closed in an effort to comply with the CDC's guidelines. Please know that we look forward to opening these amenities once it is safe to do so.

For more information regarding COVID-19 and how to best protect yourself, please refer to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/> and <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>.

Thank you,

(INSERT MANAGEMENT COMPANY CONTACT INFORMATION)