



**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Dexter, Communications Coordinator  
239-765-0202 / Jennifer.dexter@fmbgov.com

**For Immediate Release – Wednesday, May 6, 2020**

2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931

***Re-opening date tentatively remains May 15 for hotels, motels, time shares***

**Fort Myers Beach, Fla.** - Following guidelines set by state and federal officials, the Town Council of Fort Myers Beach at its regular meeting on Monday maintained the previously set date of May 15, 2020, for re-opening of hotels, motels and timeshares in the Town.

However, this date is subject to Town Council's reconsideration at any time, and will not include vacation short term rentals unless Governor DeSantis lifts the statewide ban on short term vacation rentals by May 15.

Hotels, motels, and timeshares may start accepting reservations on May 15, 2020, effective for occupancy dates as soon as May 15. This is pursuant to the attached Declaration of Emergency Regulations No. 6 (amending Declaration of Emergency Regulations No. 4 adopted by Council on April 27, 2020). One condition of opening to reservations and occupancy on May 15 is that deposits on reservations must be fully refundable and no change fees may be charged for reservation cancellations or modifications.

Local circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and information that continues to emerge from federal and state officials, other official health organizations, and neighboring communities, could cause Town Council to reconsider this decision at any time.

With beaches and parking fully opening over this past weekend, as well as partial re-opening of parks and cultural facilities, Town Council continues to urge strict social distancing and personal sanitizing measures. The public is strongly encouraged to follow all CDC guidelines. Face coverings are recommended when social distancing standards cannot otherwise be met.

###

The Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The beach stretches for seven miles and the Town has a variety of unique parks, recreation, and cultural facilities, shops, and restaurants. The Town has been incorporated since 1995.