



Alachua County Plan to Re-open Vacation Rentals

Reservations from areas identified by Florida's Governor as COVID-19 hot spots through Executive Orders are to be avoided for the next 45 days. In the event the Governor issues subsequent Orders addressing vacation rentals and/or "hot spots" in the U.S., those restrictions shall be incorporated into the plan. Reservations and stays will be allowed from U.S. states with a COVID-19 Case Rate less than 700cases/100K residents as of May 20, 2020. Reservations from international travelers will not be accepted. This plan will be reviewed/amended as necessary.

1. Alachua County Vacation Rental Owners and Operators shall follow the guidelines developed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for cleaning and disinfecting facilities.
2. All [Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation](#) requirements and safety measures related to vacation rentals should be followed.
3. Property owners and managers must follow [Alachua County local orders and COVID-19 related information](#).
4. All Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) sanitation guidelines [61C-001 Sanitation and Safety Requirements](#) of the transient lodging statutes must be followed.

SAFETY MEASURES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR VACATION RENTALS

- Maintain adequate time between the conclusion of a guest stay and the check-in of the next guest stay for appropriate cleaning and sanitation. A timeframe of 24 hours between the last exit and the next entry is preferable.
- Implement social distancing during check-in and check-out, and during any interactions with guests.
- Remote check-ins, where guests can be provided direct access to the property, is preferable.
- Use mobile platforms for customer service and communication with guests, including the acceptance of payments by mobile or electronic methods.
- Post signage or other notices regarding the cleaning practices that are completed prior to each guest stay.
- Display signage or notices to guests in the rental property to frequently remind guests to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the wiping and sanitation of touched surfaces.



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- Provide sufficient soap and surface sanitation supplies for guests to utilize in the vacation rental property during the guest's rental period.
- Ensure adequate safety protocols are in place and publicly displayed, in line with CDC guidance, regarding shared or multi-residence amenities such as pools, gyms, and other communal spaces.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning is defined by the CDC as “the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces.” Disinfection is a separate step and should come after cleaning. All dirty surfaces should be cleaned prior to disinfection.

Follow the guidelines developed by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for cleaning and disinfecting facilities, including:

- Clean and disinfect all frequently-touched surfaces in the property between each guest stay. High touch surfaces include: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- Wash all linens between each guest rental. Linens, pillows, bedding and other soft goods should never be shaken. Carefully remove linens and place into a dissolvable laundry bag or plastic trash bag. Wash linen at the highest appropriate temperature, or according to the manufacturer's instructions. Dry completely before storing.
- For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Vacuum as usual.
- Wash all dishware, glasses, coffee makers, and other service items available for use by guests between each guest rental.
- Remove and store extra throw blankets, decorative pillows, area rugs, and other soft objects that are not required for guest use and comfort.
- Pillow protectors, pillows, mattress pads/protectors, blankets, comforters (or duvet covers) should be utilized so they can be easily laundered.
- Properly dispose of PPE, including gloves, when finished. Gloves should be changed often. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Trash Removal: Gloves and masks should be worn at all times. Never use a hand to push trash bags or to consolidate trash within a receptacle. This should always be done with a device such as a stick, shovel, rake, etc. Use a disinfecting product or trash barrel liner inside.