



Nice Matters!

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Press Release

April 16, 2020

Recreational Water Access in Emerald Isle

The Town of Emerald Isle continues to monitor the development and changes related to COVID-19. An unanticipated result of COVID-19 is the early closure of colleges and high schools. These closure(s) have allowed the Town of Emerald to recruit, hire, and train lifeguards much earlier than normal. The first class of certified lifeguards will conclude training on Friday April 17, 2020.

Water Access Restriction

Effective Saturday April 18, 2020, Emerald Isle will lift the temporary restriction on recreational water access to the Atlantic Ocean. Emerald Isle residents and property owners will be able to access the Atlantic Ocean for normal activities including swimming, surfing, kiting, kayaking, and fishing. Residents can continue to walk, jog, and sit on the beach strand. All beach goers must adhere to the current social distancing guidelines.

Local Safety Measures

Lifeguards will provide limited (roving) beach patrol for the remainder of April 2020. Residents will see mobile lifeguards, working along the beach strand, in red Jeep Wranglers or official town ATV units. Emerald Isle will also display ocean condition flags, in alignment with the NOAA/NWS oceanic surf forecasts for the immediate area.

NOTE: Lifeguard activity and coverage will increase, as the season progresses and travel restrictions in North Carolina cease.

Travel Restricted/ Discouraged

The Town of Emerald Isle stresses that tourist travel to the area remains highly discouraged. All public parking areas, restrooms, and playgrounds in Emerald Isle remain closed. All short-term rental restrictions remain in place as well.

Stay at Home

It is imperative that all citizens comply with the "Stay at Home" order issued by Gov. Cooper, which is in effect through April 29, 2020. For everyone's safety, follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). Limit travel to essential needs. Maintain social distancing (of 6-feet or greater separation) and limit gatherings to groups of 10 or less. Wearing a protective face covering, when in public, is also recommended.

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