THE ST. PETE WAY

RESTART ST. PETE
There are government directives and orders, and then there is The St. Pete Way. As we work to Restart St. Pete, here’s how you can help us keep our city healthy.
FOR RESIDENTS
Wash your hands for 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Health professionals have recommended singing or humming “Happy Birthday” twice while washing. We recommend this classic 🎶

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
You make me happy when skies are gray,
You'll never know dear, how much I love you,
Please don't take my sunshine away
Be respectful by putting six feet of distance (or about the wingspan of a Brown Pelican) between yourself and others when outside your home, especially those who aren’t feeling well or a part of a vulnerable population. Avoid groups.

The Center for Disease Control recommends wearing a cloth face cover when social distancing is not possible. We agree, and strongly encourage you to wear one whenever possible. It is an unselfish act that will help to protect those around you in the event you are asymptomatic.

Click here for helpful info on how to wear a cloth face covering, including a DIY tutorial. Per the CDC, “a cloth face covering should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.” Finally, please do not use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
In St. Pete, we pride ourselves on our clean neighborhoods, beautiful park system, and the sparkling waters of Tampa Bay and Boca Ciega Bay.

It’s time we work together to extend that cleanliness to frequently touched surfaces at our homes and businesses. We’ll be doing our part at all city government facilities. Also, don’t forget about those cell phones!
Healthy St. Pete is a City of St. Petersburg initiative led by the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department. The mission of Healthy St. Pete is to build a culture of health in our city by making the healthy choice the easy choice through a collaborative community effort.

Every day, we are working to improve health outcomes, reduce health inequities, and strive to implement policies and programs that give all citizens the opportunity to reach and enjoy optimal health. This initiative is designed to encourage our community to Eat, Shop, Live and Play Healthy in a city where the sun shines on all. Learn more here.
Mayor Rick Kriseman has proclaimed St. Pete a “City of Compassion”. Now, more than ever, we must look out for each other; not only to ensure the health of our community but to get through this challenging time together.

Be a good neighbor by ensuring a vulnerable resident doesn’t leave the house unnecessarily. Connect with a friend or loved one via a phone call or other technology. Be generous by not taking more than you need when shopping for groceries or supplies. If you can, give back. Many non-profit organizations are in need of resources.

Dr. Catherine Barrett, the founder of The Kindness Pandemic, recently said “Kindness won’t make COVID-19 go away, but it will make our lives easier and more rewarding.” This is another opportunity to show the world what we’re made of here in St. Pete.
FOR BUSINESSES
In addition to adhering to the latest government orders, all restaurants in St. Pete should heed the guidance of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. Food safety, cleaning and sanitizing, and monitoring employee health and hygiene are paramount. Retail should refer to the National Retail Federation’s ‘Operation Open Doors’ guidance.

- For restaurants, The St. Pete Way means placing hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol at each table for use by guests. It also means increasing the frequency of employee handwashing and the use of sanitizers. This, too, is recommended by FRLA.
- We strongly encourage restaurants without a reservation system to adopt one. This will help to mitigate crowding, appropriately space diners, and help determine staffing needs.
- We love the smiling faces of our hospitality industry employees, but we also know that cloth face coverings are effective at mitigating the risk of contracting the virus from both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. It is especially important to wear one when social distancing is not possible and where crowds gather (regardless of limited occupancy), such as inside restaurants.
- The more a business does to assure their guests that they are taking their health and the health and safety of their employees seriously, the more likely it is that those customers will return to their business.
We are eager to restart St. Pete and energize our economy, as are our many restaurateurs and business owners.

For some, it may be in their best interest and in the best interest of public health to wait to reopen, or to not move as quickly as official orders dictate. We respect and appreciate a cautious approach. To help, the City of St. Petersburg is working to give our small, independent business owners and their employees a fighting chance to survive this historic crisis. Learn more at www.stpete.org/FightingChanceFund.
In the past thirty years, the City of St. Petersburg enjoyed a renaissance, endured a recession, and then rose to become one of the world’s greatest cities, a “top place to go”, a “top place to visit”, atop our peers in key economic indicators.

It has been a good time to do business in the ‘Burg! Now, it’s time to reimagine. The St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce asks businesses to “reshape and transform strategies and operating models” and work to “ensure resilience and growth in a post-pandemic economy.”

The City of St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce further encourages all businesses to work together. Share best practice. Be a champion for health and safety. Now is a good time to look for new ways of doing business or continue models that have worked during this pandemic.
Restaurants can help our planet, our people, and their profits by sourcing locally. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is working to connect producers and businesses. Learn more here.

Olga Bof of Keep Saint Petersburg Local says: “Locally-sourced food is fresher, and more environmentally-friendly. It hasn't traveled as far, and is more likely to be organic, without preservatives. Buying from local farms means there’s more money going back into our community. It also helps build connections within our community. When you buy directly from farmers, you can work with them one-on-one and then build relationships over time. This can lead to even more opportunities for your business and community in the future.”