



Earlier today, Friday, March 20, Hilton Head Island Mayor John McCann closed the public beaches on Hilton Head. His directive included closing all public beach accesses, public beach parking to include restrooms and other public facilities. However, the Town does not have the authority to close private beach accesses. The Mayor stated that people who have private beach access through their homes or rentals in private communities will still be able to access the beach. At this time, the beach accesses located in Palmetto Dunes are open.

We believe his intent was to limit large gatherings on the public beaches to limit the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, many other areas are closing their beaches and the Mayor feared the next wave of beachgoers from other areas would come to Hilton Head as a “last resort”. Beaufort County Sherriff’s Office will continue to disperse large gatherings of people on the beaches and warn the public that deputies would issue tickets for drinking on the beach.

Please see below link for Town of Hilton Head New Release and article in the Island Packet.

<https://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov/government/news/newsdetails.cfm?NewsID=1584>

<https://www.islandpacket.com/news/coronavirus/article241372971.html?>