

The Real Deal (online)

Get your electrostatic disinfectant sprayers ready: Hotels begin reopening in South Florida

Hotels are also back open in the Florida Keys.

Hawks Cay Resort, located halfway between Key Largo and Key West at mile marker 61, reopened on Monday, said Sheldon Suga, vice president and managing director.

The 60-acre property, with 177 rooms and 250 two- and three-bedroom villas, will also require face masks for workers and guests, and social distancing in public areas. Rooms will be cleaned and sealed prior to guest arrival. Daily housekeeping will not be available. At the resort's restaurants, guests will access digital menus on their smartphones, and diners will be spaced apart.

Hotel staff will wear "approval to serve" stickers on their name badges indicating that they have had their temperatures checked and have answered a questionnaire about how they're feeling and where they've been.

Hawks Cay had been closed since March 22, but it's not the first time in recent years that it had to close abruptly. After damage from Hurricane Irma in September 2017, the hotel didn't reopen until [nearly a year later](#). It's now bringing staff back who were furloughed during the mandated period of closure, Suga said.

Elevators will be limited to one guest or family, the hot tubs are temporarily closed, and valet parking is not offered at this time. Hand sanitizer is available at entrances, and there are now designated entrance and exit areas.

The property includes a full-service marina, six restaurants, a saltwater lagoon, five swimming pools, and a spa. "We think a lot of people will gravitate to outdoor seating" and other outdoor areas, Suga said.

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