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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful: Watch Where You Toss Used Wipes and Gloves!**

*Failing to properly dispose of personal protective equipment (PPE) will hurt the environment and could spread COVID-19*

**West Palm Beach April 9, 2020** – Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful Inc. issued an urgent call today for all county residents to properly dispose of cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), including used sanitizing wipes, masks, and plastic gloves. These belong in the trash, not on the ground.

“We have been hearing from more and more people who are seeing wipes, gloves, and other related items on streets and walking trails, or being left behind near supermarkets and pharmacies,” said Lourdes Ferris, Executive Director of non-profit Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc.

“The basic rules for proper trash disposal are taking on greater importance, given the COVID-19 virus, she said. “These materials are being used to protect us from possible contamination from COVID-19. If they are not disposed of properly, we are risking the spread of this life-threatening virus.”

If a store provides wipes to clean off a cart, it likely has a trash receptacle nearby. If consumers are carrying their own wipes or gloves, make sure to properly dispose of used gloves, wipes, and masks in a trash receptacle at the store or have a bag inside your vehicle to place the items in to dispose of at home.

“No one wants to spread the disease, so we must be careful to properly dispose of these materials,” Lourdes Ferris said. She also discouraged people from picking up wipes or gloves they see littered, because they could be contaminated. “If you used the PPE, it’s your responsibility to dispose of it,” she said.

National nonprofit Keep America Beautiful sent an urgent alert to its more than 650 nationwide affiliates, including Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, asking them to spread the word among their millions of volunteers. “We will get through this, working together and looking out for one another,” she added.

Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is also continuing to encourage residents to recycle during this time. “Our partners, the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County are currently holding a fun, virtual “Recycle Right Challenge” with prizes for those that complete the 10-day challenge,” said Lourdes Ferris. For details on the challenge visit <https://swa.org/633/SWA-10-Part-Recycle-Right-Challenge>

**About Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc.**

Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, Inc., established in 1988 is a 501(c)(3) volunteer-based non-profit organization which serves as the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The mission of Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County through programs and partnerships that encourage public agencies, private entities, residents and visitors to reduce litter and waste, increase recycling, beautify, maintain, and sustain public spaces, and inspire generations of environmental stewards. [www.keepPBCbeautiful.org](http://www.keepPBCbeautiful.org) Like us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @keepbcbeautiful

**About Keep America Beautiful**

Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s leading community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America’s Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision. The organization is driven by the work and passion of more than 650 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). Donate and take action at [kab.org](http://kab.org).

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