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Miami breathes a sigh of relief as Matthew heads north



A Hollywood Beach Ocean Rescue vehicle patrols the shoreline. (GASTON DE CARDENAS/AFP/Getty Images)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. — By Friday morning, Miami-Dade's 2.6 million residents were able to breathe easy after Hurricane Matthew shifted slightly to the east. As a result, Florida's most populous county avoided most of the heavy rain and wind emanating from the monstrous storm.

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez announced late Thursday night that county government would be open for business Friday morning. Meanwhile, Gov. Rick Scott rejected a request from the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority to resume toll collections today at 11 a.m., since the county had been cleared of all storm warnings. Scott said he would not reinstate tolls until 24 hours after Matthew passes each county in the state.

Meanwhile, state officials notified the presidents for Florida State University and the University of Miami that the Florida Highway Patrol is not going to be available to provide traditional escorts for the big rivalry game this weekend in Miami.

“All state law enforcement will be doing hurricane response and recovery,” said Jackie Schutz, Scott’s communications director. Florida State also issued a warning to students and fans not to travel to South Florida while Matthew still slashes the coast.