

Florida Recovery / COVID-19 Update

July 31, 2020

This report provides an overview of the State of Florida's response to the COVID-19 crisis including state agency actions, updates from the Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, and any pertinent Federal or local government actions. You may find additional resources linked throughout and listed at the end of this report. **New updates are signified in red text.**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

- On July 15, the CDC released updated [Hospitalization Forecasts](#) that include national and state forecasts.
 - On July 10, HHS [announced](#) over \$4 Billion in additional relief payments to healthcare providers impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - On June 30, the CDC updated their [Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#).
 - On June 24, HHS [announced](#) 45-Day compliance deadline extension for providers receiving CARES Act funds. With the extension, hospitals will now have 90 days from the date they receive a payment to accept the Terms and Conditions or return the funds.
 - The CDC recommends that individuals wear face masks when out in public. View their updated guidance [here](#).
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery

- Phase 2 of the *Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery* is outlined in [Executive Order 20-139](#).
- View the **Phase 2 Infographic** [here](#), **Phase 2 FAQ's** [here](#), and the Governor's **Phase 2 PowerPoint Presentation** [here](#).

Executive Orders

- [Executive Order 20-181](#) (July 31) regarding emergency management for Hurricane Isaias and COVID-19.
- [Executive Order 20-180](#) (July 29) extends Mortgage Foreclosure and Eviction Relief until September 1.
- [Executive Order 20-179](#) (July 29) extends COVID-19 policies for local government meetings through September 1.
- [Click here](#) to access all **Executive Orders** and **State Agency Emergency Orders** issued in response to COVID-19.

Other Executive Actions

- On July 31, Governor DeSantis announced the **One Goal One Florida** initiative to unite Floridians against COVID-19. Watch the announcement [here](#). The initiative asks all Floridians to follow these simple, yet effective guidelines:
 1. **Protect the vulnerable**, including the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.
 2. **Practice proper hygiene**, including washing your hands.
 3. **Practice social distancing** by avoiding closed spaces and crowded places.
 4. **Wear a mask** if you are in close contact with others.
 - On July 27, Vice President Pence and Governor DeSantis hosted a press conference at University of Miami to announce the launch of COVID-19 clinical trials. Read more [here](#).
 - [Click here](#) to access videos of the recent COVID-19 Roundtables hosted by the Governor and various key stakeholders.
 - Access the video library of the Governor's previous COVID-19 press conferences [here](#).
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DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- To view FDEM updates, click on the [FDEM News site](#) or access the weekly statewide update for **July 24** [here](#).

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Grants

- To read more about FEMA PA Grants, and current filing deadlines, please visit their website, [FloridaPA.org](#).

BUSINESS

- On July 27, Senate President Bill Galvano released a [memo](#) regarding the General Revenue Collection Report for June. Read the full **General Revenue Collection Report** for June from the EDR's office [here](#).
- DBPR amended Emergency Order [2020-09](#) which suspended on-premises sales of alcohol at bars. Restaurants who derive less than 50% gross sales from alcohol may continue to offer alcohol for on-site consumption while operating at 50% seating capacity.

Unemployment Assistance for Individuals

- Find important updates and information for claimants [here](#).
- Governor DeSantis has directed DEO to continue waiving the **work search and work registration requirements** for claimants through **September 5**.
- The **Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** program is now available. This program, offered through the federal CARES Act and administered by DEO, provides up to 13 weeks of benefits to a claimant who has exhausted their Reemployment Assistance benefits. View the [application process here](#) and access [FAQ's here](#).
- To comply with federal law, beginning May 10, individuals with RA claims will be required to return to the CONNECT system every two weeks to request their benefits.
- DEO has launched the new [RA Claims Dashboard](#) that allows for more transparency among the program.
- The **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** program provides benefits to those that may not otherwise be eligible under Florida's state RA program. Find information on **COVID-19 Pandemic Scenarios & Benefits Available** [here](#).
 - Click [here](#) for **PUA application** process information. Find PUA FAQ's [here](#).
- Florida DEO is offering [Reemployment Assistance \(RA\)](#) for those whose employment has been negatively impacted because of mitigation efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. [View FAQs here](#).
 - **RA applications** can be submitted via the [online application](#) portal on DEO's website or via [paper application](#).

EDUCATION

General Guidelines for Schools

- The CDC released updated guidelines for the opening and operating of schools this fall, as well as resources for parents and caregivers. The updated information can be found [here](#).
- U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 [website](#).
- For more information on Florida DOE's response to COVID-19, please visit [their website](#).

K-12 Public, Private & Charter Schools

- The Florida Education Association has [filed a lawsuit](#) to block the executive order 2020-EO-06 issued by the Department of Education and leave it to local school and health officials as to whether in-person classes should resume.
- A collection of school reopening information for Florida counties can be found [here](#).

- Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran issued [2020-EO-06](#), which requires all Florida public schools to reopen in August and offer “the full panoply of services” to students and families. Schools must submit a reopening plan and be approved by DOE to receive funding for the Fall 2020 semester. Webinars and supporting materials can be found through this [link](#).

Universities and Colleges

- The Board of Governors met on July 21 to conduct regular business as well as consider requested exemptions to certain regulations in light of COVID-19. The agenda and meeting materials can be found [here](#).
- The United Faculty of Florida, a union representing 20,000 instructors have asked state and education officials to move to online learning for the fall. Read more [here](#).
- To learn more about what our universities are doing, please visit the [Florida Board of Governors website](#).

HEALTH

- On June 30, FDOH filed an [Emergency Order](#) regarding the extension of various suspensions of Statutes, Rules and Orders, made necessary by COVID-19.
- FDOH Surgeon General Rivkees issued a [Public Health Advisory](#) (June 22) advising all residents to wear masks in public, socially distance, and avoid crowds, close contact, closed spaces.

Current State Numbers

- The most recent **case-by-case report** can be found [here](#). Access the daily reports archive [here](#).
- The **percent of positive results** ranged from 13.50% to 18.14% over the past 2 weeks and was 13.99% yesterday.
- View the most recent [Serology Report](#) and [Point-of-Care Report](#). FDOH releases these reports weekly (Fridays).
- View the most recent report on [Licensed Group Homes with COVID-19 cases](#). FDOH updates this report weekly.
- AHCA recently added an additional tab to the [Hospital Capacity Dashboard](#) to reflect hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19.
- FDOH is providing the [County Data Surveillance Report](#) for every Florida county. Previously, this information was only available for select communities.
- For current COVID-19 numbers in Florida, visit the [Interactive DOH COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard](#).
- To see all COVID-19 data reporting, visit the [FDOH COVID-19 website](#).

Testing

- All state-supported testing sites on Florida’s west coast will temporarily close for Hurricane Isaias. The temporary closure will begin at 5 PM on July 30 and will remain closed until it is safe to reopen, with all sites anticipated to be reopened at the latest by 8 AM on August 5.
- **Community-based testing** is available at various Walgreens, CVS, Walmart, Publix, and Home Depot locations. Find more information [here](#).
- Click [here](#) to track the state-supported **mobile lab**.
- View a list of all **drive-thru testing sites** in the state [here](#).
- View a list of all **walk-up testing sites** in the state [here](#).
- [Click here](#) for a list of all **state supported testing sites** – both drive-thru and walk-up.

Supply Chain

- AHCA continues to open additional regional [COVID-19 Isolation Centers](#) around the state to serve patients in need of long-term care services who have contracted COVID-19 and a full list of centers can be found at the link above.

- **FHA** provided the following [list of vetted companies](#) that provide trusted resources for hospitals. FHA also provides the following list of trusted [PPE suppliers](#).
- To request resources, fill out the [COVID-19 Emergency Requisition Request Form](#) and submit to your [county Emergency Management \(EM\) center](#). Resource requests must be initiated through the county Emergency Support Function and the request must be based on a defined need that represents an urgent shortage. Florida Hospital Association (FHA) released [Resource Request Process Guidance](#) with further information.

Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care Facilities

- **Access the most recent [Long-term care facilities associated with COVID-19 report](#) and the [Long-term care facility deaths associated with COVID-19 report](#) from **FDH** here.**
- On July 10, **CMS** directed additional resources to Nursing Homes in COVID-19 hotspot areas. Read more [here](#).
- On June 15, **AHCA** issued [Emergency Order 20-4](#) requiring testing for assisted living facility staff and [Emergency Order 20-5](#) requiring testing for nursing home staff. **AHCA** also released further guidance entitled [Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility Staff Logistics](#).

Medicaid

- On July 14, **AHCA** released [Florida Medicaid Update: Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Transfers](#). **AHCA** will continue this flexibility until further notice.
- **AHCA** recently updated their [COVID-19 Florida Medicaid FAQ's](#) on July 2.

OTHER STATE AGENCY RESPONSES

- **Department of Management Services (DMS)** managed facilities will remain closed to visitors until further notice. The agencies affected are:
 - the Department of Education
 - the Department of Children and Families
 - the Department of Corrections
 - the Department of Transportation
 - the Agency for Health Care Administration
 - the Department of Law Enforcement

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS & LOCALIZED RESPONSES

County and Municipal Information

- **Multiple counties have adopted face covering ordinances/orders/resolutions.** Those counties: Alachua, Broward, Collier, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Indian River, Leon, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Seminole, and St. Lucie.
- [Florida Association of Counties' \(FAC\) list of all County Emergency Orders.](#)
- [Florida League of Cities' \(FLC\) list of all Municipal Ordinances/Policies and Emergency Declarations/Orders.](#)
- For further information about county responses to COVID-19, please visit the [FAC COVID-19 Resources webpage](#).

Local Government Meetings

- [EO 20-179](#) extends the suspension any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government to meet at a specific public place. The order above also authorizes local governments to use communication media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes. The new order is in effect until September 1.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- To receive COVID-19 updates from the State, text **FLCOVID19** to **888777**
- [Lobbytools COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- [BALLARD PARTNERS CARES Act Information](#) (Full breakdown previously provided by our firm)
- [HHS \(CARES Act\) Provider Relief Fund Information](#)
- [HHS \(CARES Act\) Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal](#)
- [HHS \(CARES Act\) COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal](#)
- [FEMA Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- [Executive Office of the Governor \(EOG\) COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [EOG COVID-19 Executive Orders and State Emergency Orders](#)

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- [Florida Division of Emergency Management \(FDEM\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [FDEM News Archive](#)

BUSINESSES

- [Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation \(DBPR\) Emergency Response Information](#)

EDUCATION

- [Florida Department of Education \(DOE\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [State University System of Florida News & Updates](#)
- [Office of Early Learning COVID-19 Resources](#) or call 1-866-447-1159

HEALTH

- [Florida Department of Health \(FDOH\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [Agency for Health Care Administration \(AHCA\) COVID-19 Alerts](#)

STATE AGENCY RESOURCES

- [Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [Florida Farm to You Commodities List](#)
- [Department of Business and Professional Regulation State of Emergency Information](#)
- [Department of Children and Families COVID-19 resource page](#)
- [Department of Elder Affairs COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [FLHSMV COVID-19 website](#)
- [Department of Revenue COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - [Department of Revenue COVID-19 email COVID19TAXHELP@FloridaRevenue.com](#)
- [Office of Insurance Regulation COVID-19 resource page](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- [Florida Association of Counties \(FAC\) COVID-19 Resources](#) (county-by-county statistics and resources)
- [FAC COVID-19 County Response Dashboard](#) (all Emergency Orders listed county-by-county)
- [Florida League of Cities Coronavirus Resources](#)