



Sarasota County Emergency Management

Flash Report #11



March 10, 2020

Activation Level 3: Monitoring

Event Name: COVID-19

State EOC Activation

Level 2

Watch, Warnings, Advisories

- International Travel Advisory
- Nile Cruise Advisory
- Advisory on Port Everglades

Possible Impacts

More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in communities in the United States. It's likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

Timing

Symptoms may be mild to severe and may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Key Points

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the Department always recommends everyday preventive actions to help impede the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;

Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;

Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom

Situation

As the State continues to respond to the new cases of COVID-19 the Governor issued an Executive Order.

This action will allow State resources to be deployed as necessary to support local government response and mitigation efforts. We are sharing this with all of our partners for situational awareness and will continue to provide updates as new information develops.

As of 11 a.m. today, Sarasota County has not received any new positive cases of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, however two new cases were announced overnight. One in Volusia County, and one in Broward County raising the Florida Case count to 14.

Yesterday Sarasota County Schools was notified that two Sarasota County students were being excluded from school due to their contact with an individual who has since tested positive for COVID-19. It is important to note that at this time, these students are not ill and can't transmit the virus. They are being quarantined as a public health measure for 14 days after an exposure.

The Florida Department of Health reminds everyone that the elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness. Please remember to wash your hands with soap & water. cover your coughs & sneezes with your arm, not your hands. If you're sick, stay at home & avoid crowds.

The Florida Department of Health continues to work closely with all patients, potential close contacts of the patients and health care providers to isolate and monitor persons who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and implement testing of anyone who may develop COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough or shortness of breath.

DOH is visiting all licensed long term care facilities in Sarasota County to ensure proper COVID-19 infection control guidelines as established by the CDC are being used to prevent the spread of the virus.

Testing protocols continue to be refined as we learn more about this virus, as such DOH is ensuring healthcare providers are receiving the updated Clinician Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease and a healthcare provider letter regarding Enhanced Surveillance and Preparedness for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to associations, licensed providers, Health Care Coalitions and County Health Departments. The department understands the federal government is moving to rapidly distribute COVID-19 tests kits to commercial labs like Labcorp, and Quest in the coming days and they should be available locally soon.

DOH Sarasota is monitoring community health trends on a daily basis to help identify any possible cases of COVID-19. Additionally, the department is serving as an expert resource for health care providers and the public, and working to make sure that health care providers know what to look for and what to do if they suspect COVID-19 in a patient.

Please visit the Department's dedicated COVID-19 webpage for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida. For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling 1-(866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours a day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov. Additionally, the CDC maintains a COVID-19 website with a wealth of resources for communities and business, www.cdc.gov

Sarasota County Actions

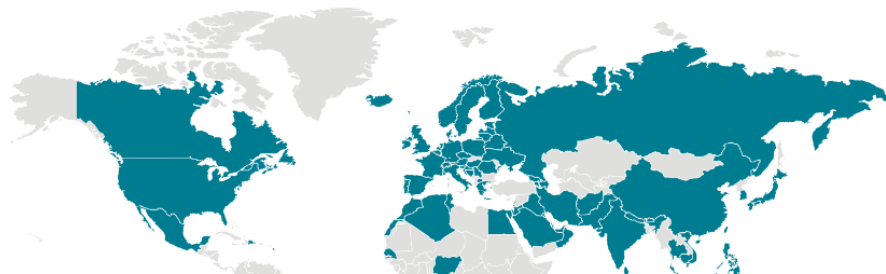
The Emergency Management Team is monitoring the spread of COVID-19. EM is coordinating, planning, and implementing preparedness actions with the Department of Health. DOH Sarasota is coordinating preparedness actions with the State and coordinating with local partners as needed.

The EM team is coordinating critical resource needs with the Department of Health, Public Safety, Hospitals, and other partners. These partners received an invite to the Smartsheet form to input available resources.

Sarasota County Emergency Management will be participating in conference calls with the Florida Division of Emergency Management every Monday and Thursday and will continue until further notice.

EM and Department of Health continue to monitor and will implement another City/ County/ Constitutional Leadership call based upon development of positive community acquired COVID-19 cases or to discuss further actions based upon DOH/CDC direction. Should that be necessary all partners will receive an invitation to the conference call via the Situation Unit.

Locations with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases



Directors

All personnel should ensure staff is situationally aware of the spread of COVID-19 and personal protective measures to reduce or prevent influenza like illnesses. Any information regarding employee communications and messaging coordinate with Sarasota County Communications Department. All department and agencies with potential release

going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty;

Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The CDC does not recommend that asymptomatic, healthy people wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).



press releases coordinate with Sarasota County Communications Department by calling 861-NEWS or news@scgov.net. If the situation escalates, Flash Reports will be replaced with Situation Reports.

Nile Cruise Advisory

The department is advising all individuals who traveled on a river cruise on the Nile River in Egypt in February 2020 to self-isolate for 14 days following their date of return to the United States. Several passengers in the United States recently developed symptoms and have been confirmed to be infected with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), including two presumptive positive cases in Florida.

International Travel Advisory

DOH is advising all individuals who have traveled internationally to follow the new CDC guidelines

Level 3: Mandatory 14-day self-isolation and practice social distancing upon return to the United States. Social distancing includes avoiding going out in public and close personal interactions. If you become symptomatic, immediately self-isolate and contact your county health department or health care provider.

Level 2 and Cruises: Monitor your health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the United States. If you become symptomatic, immediately self-isolate and contact your county health department or health care provider.

For more information regarding current CDC travel advisories related to COVID-19, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

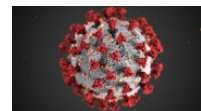
All Agencies and Partners

Please ensure that all field personnel that do not receive e-mail communications are informed of daily updates and are provided the Florida Department of Health and CDC information links to ensure proper protective measures are taken.

[Click to View Executive Order](#)



[Click to View Public Health Emergency Declaration](#)



[How to Prepare and Take Action](#)

[At Home](#)



[At School](#)



[At Work](#)



Resource Tool Kit



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Advisory on Port Everglades

The Department, through an extensive epidemiological investigation, identified this new case as the third positive case of COVID-19 associated with Port Everglades in Broward County, Florida. Further, all three cases are connected to or employed by Metro Cruise Services – a company that operates at Port Everglades.

The Florida Department of Health recommends all individuals experiencing symptoms who have recently travelled through Port Everglades to immediately contact their County Health Department or health care provider and self-isolate for 14 Days.

The Department also recommends employees of Metro Cruise Services at Port Everglades with any association to these cases self-isolate at home.

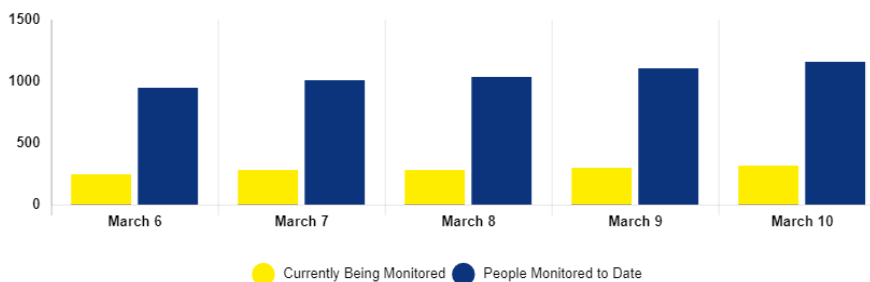
The Department is working to connect with all employees at Metro Cruise Services who may have come into contact with the three individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 to provide the employees with the appropriate guidance and monitoring.

The department is working in close consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on this investigation.

The CDC recommends that individuals with recent travel history on a cruise to monitor their health for 14 days and, if they develop symptoms, to immediately self-isolate and contact their County Health Department or health care provider.

Please call the state of Florida's 24/7 hotline for COVID-19 at 1 (866) 779-6121 for assistance in connecting with your County Health Department or health care provider.

COVID-19 Monitoring Timeline

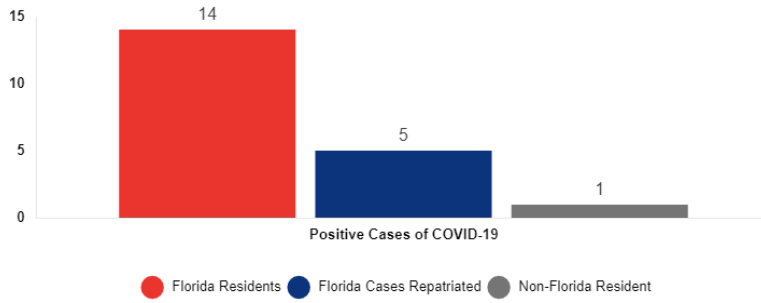


319
Currently Being Monitored

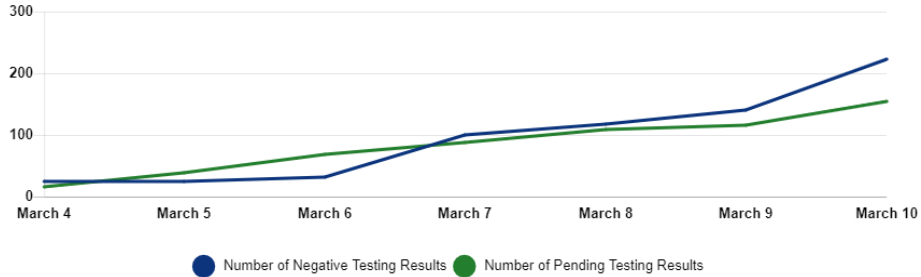
1161
People Monitored to Date

2
Deaths - Florida Residents

Positive Cases of COVID-19



COVID-19 Negative vs Pending Test Results



222
Total Negative Results

155
Total Pending Results

People Under Public Health Monitoring: The number of people under public health monitoring includes those at risk of having been exposed to COVID-19 who are monitoring their health under the supervision of public health officials.

Florida Cases Repatriated: The United States Department of State officially coordinated the return of a person living in Florida to the United States and those persons are isolated at a federally designated site until healthy. A repatriated case is when the United States Department of State officially coordinates the return of a Florida resident to the United States.

Presumptive Positive: A Presumptive Positive is when a state health lab has a positive test without CDC confirmation.

Confirmed: A Confirmed status is given when the Presumptive Positive sample is then confirmed by the CDC.

Flash Reports



FDOH COVID-19



CDC COVID-19



FAQ

