



# Sarasota County Emergency Management

## Flash Report #18



March 15, 2020

**Activation Level 3: Monitoring**

**Event Name: COVID-19**

### 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

### Situation

As of 10 a.m. today, Sarasota County remains at one case (70-year-old male), currently being treated at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. This individual is isolated and will continue to remain isolated until cleared by public health officials.

The Florida Department of Health has announced 39 new positive cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Additionally, the Florida Department of Health confirmed the death of a 77-year old male in Lee County who had previously tested positive for COVID-19.

During a press conference at the State Emergency Operations Center Saturday, the Governor provided several additional updates on Florida's efforts to respond to COVID-19:

**Governor DeSantis requested that Health and Human Services send home the 61 Floridians that were previously aboard the Grand Princess cruise line, home from isolation from Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia.**

**Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Health to hire additional epidemiologists from university health programs to help with workload.**

**Governor DeSantis has directed the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to extend all existing nursing home and ALF licenses for 90 days to remove distraction from patient care.**

**Governor DeSantis directed Director Moskowitz to expand his emergency order and prohibit all visitation to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, long-term care facilities and adult group homes to all visitors for the next 30 days.**

**Governor DeSantis directed the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to suspend drivers' license renewal requirements for 30 days.**

**Governor DeSantis directed all agencies to suspend for 30 days licensing and registration renewal requirements for existing professional licenses (e.g. realtors).**

DOH continues to visit 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.

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.

### Sarasota County Actions

The Emergency Operations Center will be activated to a Level II tomorrow from 1000hrs -1900hrs, and daily activation will be from 0800hrs - 19:00hrs.

EM is facilitating City /County /Constitutional Leadership calls everyday until further notice.

Sarasota County canceled all events with anticipated attendance of 250 individuals or more at county facilities for the next 30 days beginning Friday, March 13.

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.

Sarasota County Emergency Management will be participating in conference calls with the Florida Division of Emergency Management every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

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.

### Locations with Reported Cases in the U.S.

#### COVID-19 Cases in the U.S.

[Cases in U.S.](#) [Situation Summary](#)



### Directors

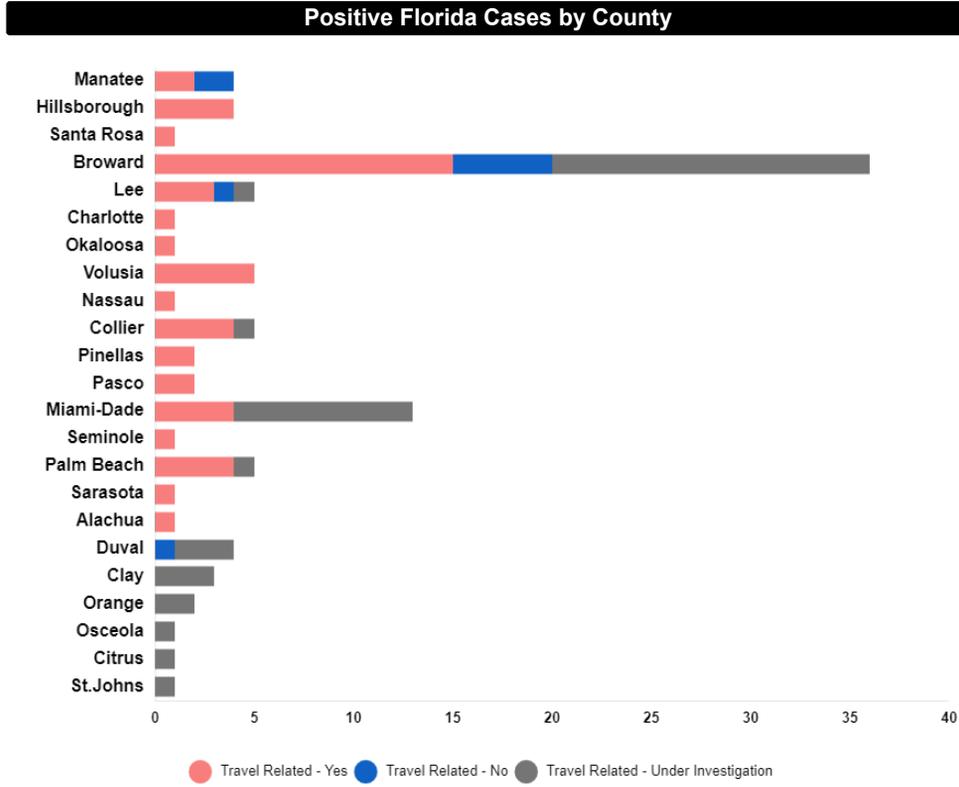
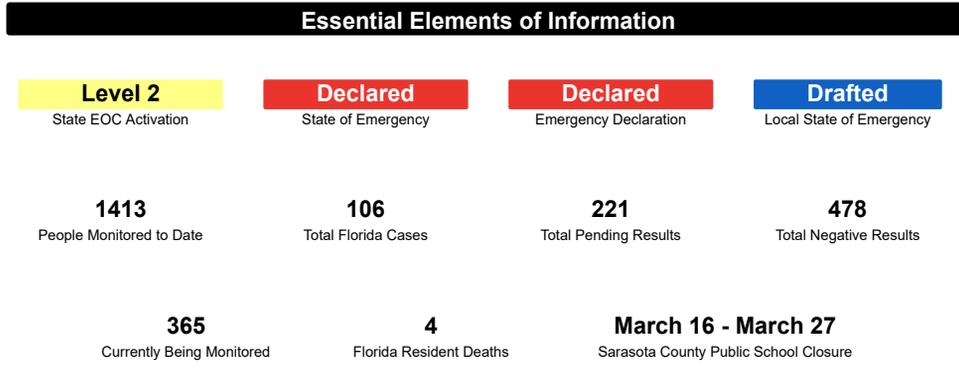
All personnel should ensure staff is situationally aware of the spread of COVID-19 and personal protective measures to reduce or prevent influenza like illnesses. Any information regarding employee communications and

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

messaging coordinate with Sarasota County Communications Department. All department and agencies with potential 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.



#### 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.

#### Emergency Declaration



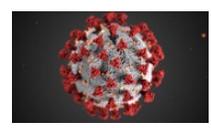
#### Emergency Order



#### Executive Order



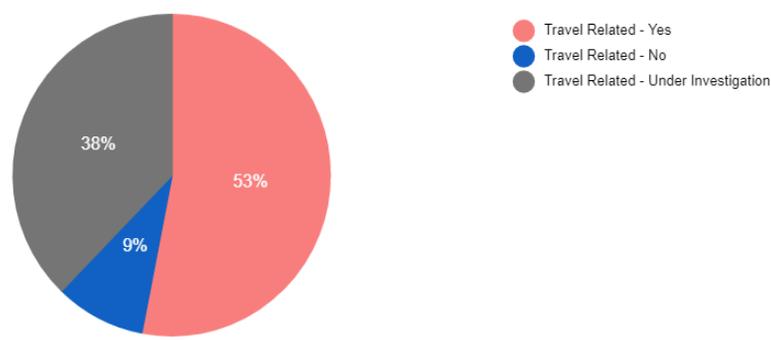
#### Public Health Emergency Declaration



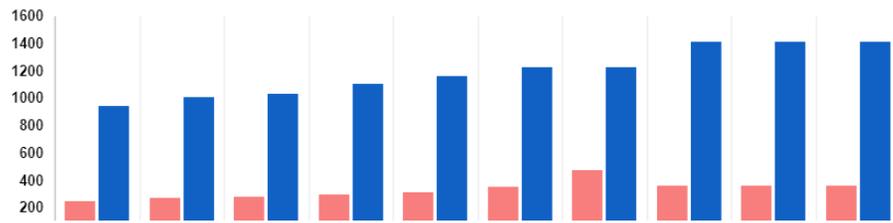
#### Travel

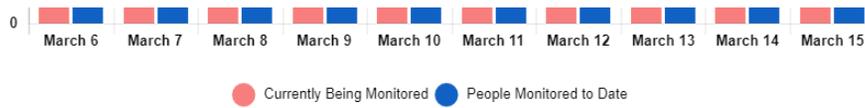


### Positive Cases Travel Related



### COVID-19 Monitoring Timeline





### Businesses



### Schools

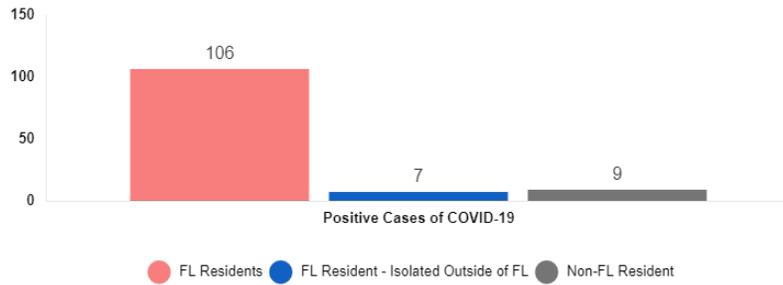


### Faith Based

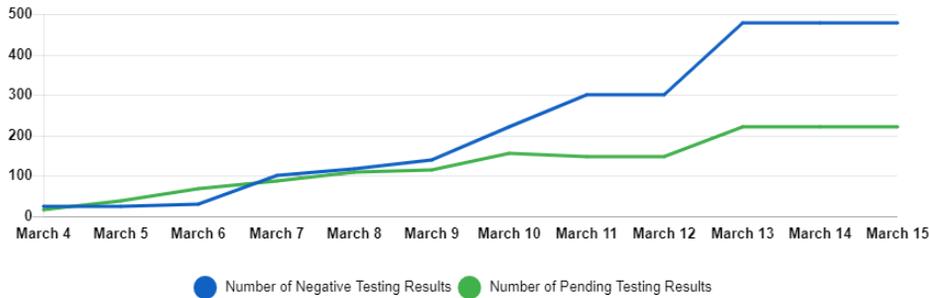


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## Positive Cases of COVID-19



## COVID-19 Negative vs Pending Test 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.

## COVID-19 Risk Assessment by Country

### Widespread sustained (ongoing) spread and restrictions on entry to the United States

CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to the following destinations. Entry of foreign nationals from these destinations has been suspended.

- China ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#))
- Iran ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#))
- Most of Europe ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#))

### Widespread sustained (ongoing) spread

CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to the following destinations:

- South Korea ([Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#))

### Sustained (ongoing) community spread

CDC recommends that older adults or those who have chronic medical conditions consider postponing travel to the following destinations:

- Global Outbreak Notice ([Level 2 Travel Health Notice](#))

### Limited community spread

Travelers should practice usual precautions

## 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>

## 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.

Flash Reports



FDOH COVID-19



CDC COVID-19



FAQ

