



# Sarasota County Emergency Management

## Flash Report #23



March 20, 2020

**Activation Level 2: Partial**

**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 noon today, Sarasota County COVID-19 cases increased by three, giving Sarasota a total of eight cases to date. DOH Sarasota's case investigation has identified one of the new cases as a Manatee County resident, the county case count will be corrected online during the next scheduled update. The new cases are all receiving the appropriate care and are hospitalized or self-isolated. The Florida Department of Health continues to see new positive cases across the State, please visit [www.flhealth.gov/covid-19](http://www.flhealth.gov/covid-19) for the most current case count.

The Florida Department of Health is reporting a total of 474 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Florida.

In continued efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community, and in alignment with CDC guidelines, Sarasota County will be closing county operated public beaches 6 a.m. Saturday, March 21 until further notice.

If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, follow the steps below to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care: You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Yesterday Governor DeSantis directed State Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees and Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Ken Lawson to immediately work to expand the capacity of state call centers due to significant increases in call volume related to COVID-19.

The Florida Department of Health continues to see new positive cases across the State, please visit [www.flhealth.gov/covid-19](http://www.flhealth.gov/covid-19) for the most current case count.

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.

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

Visitor screening begins at Admin. and BOB.

For COVID-19 text updates from Sarasota County Government, text SRQCOVID19 to 888777.

Sarasota County Government has waived water service shut-offs through April 13 for non-payment of utilities bills, as part of our ongoing response to COVID-19.

In person schools will be canceled until April 15th. The School Board is working to get Online Learning by April 1st.

Sarasota County canceled all events at county facilities through April 12.

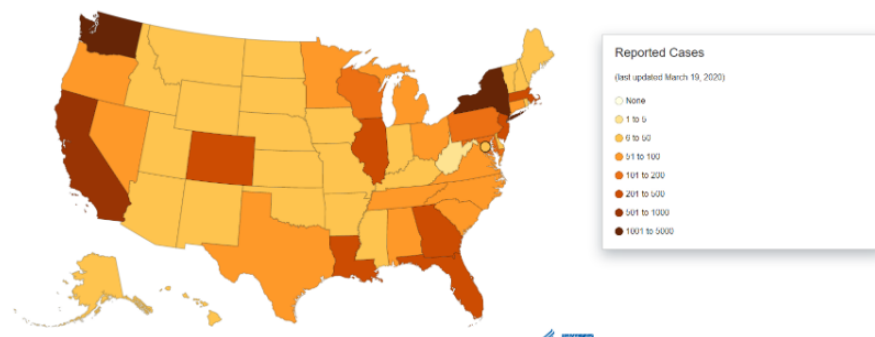
Sarasota County libraries are closed and will implement a drive-thru service on March 20, 2020.

The Emergency Operations Center is activated to a Level II from 0900hrs - 1900hrs Mon-Fri and Sat-Sun 1000-1600hrs.

EM is following a battle rhythm during activation of the EOC in order to coordinate with key departments, partners, and stakeholders.

A COVID-19 Emergency Requisition Request Form must be included with all COVID-19 WebEOC Resource Requests entered by counties, including personal protective equipment (N-95 mask, hand sanitizer, etc.) and testing supplies.

The County Administrator signed an emergency declaration as of March 15, 2020. The EOC will continue to monitor this dynamic situation and support government operations and partners to ensure resources are available when needed. If you are assigned to the EOC or are called to report, you will receive a health screening from our



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

### Travel Levels

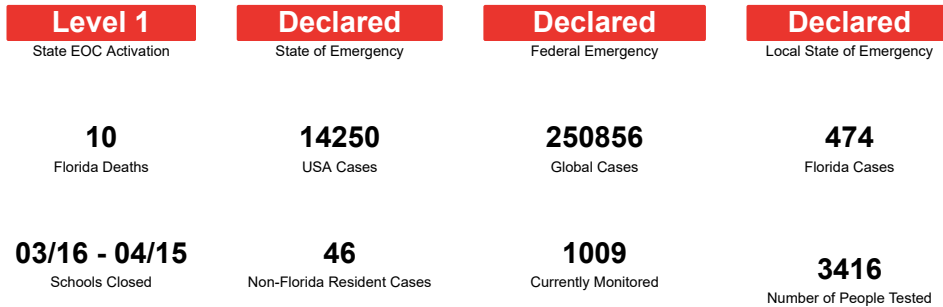
Warning - Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel

Alert - Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions

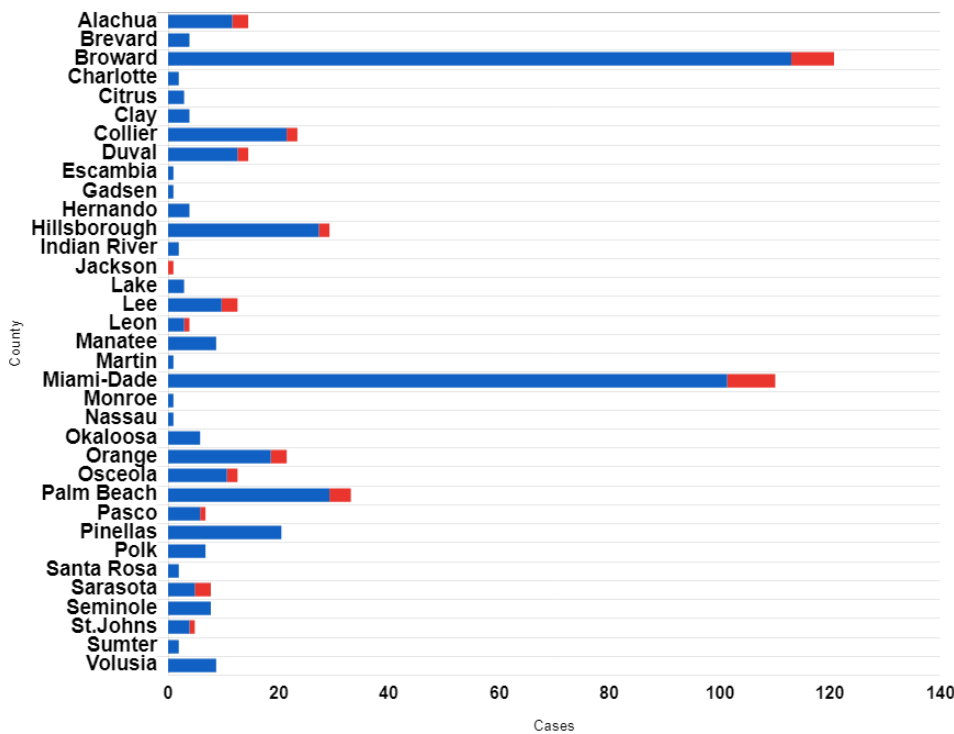
Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions



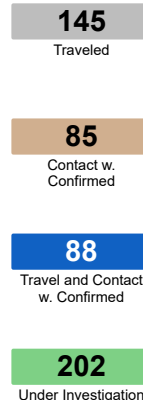
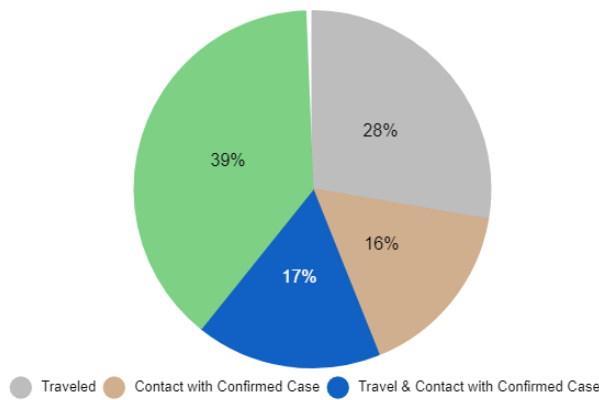
## Essential Elements of Information



## Number of Cases Per County



## COVID-19 Case Overview



... Human Resources Wellness staff before entering the building. Please remember to complete a Daily Disaster Logs and follow submission instructions from your Disaster Log representative.

### 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 Human Resources 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



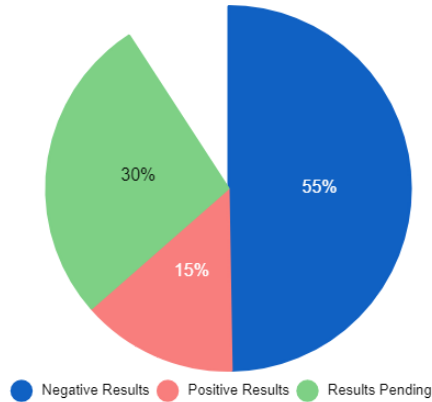
### Executive Order



Under Investigation



### Number of People Tested

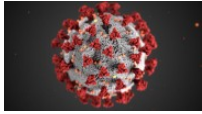


**1870**  
Negative Results

**520**  
Positive Results

**1026**  
Results Pending

### Public Health Emergency Declaration



### Travel



### 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.

### Businesses



### International Travel Advisory

DOH is advising all individuals who have traveled internationally to follow the new CDC guidelines. Please visit the CDC travel advisories related to COVID-19, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

### Schools



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.

### 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.

### Faith Based



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.

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Flash Reports



FDOH COVID-19



CDC COVID-19



FAQ

