



# Sarasota County Emergency Management

Flash Report #31  
Updates listed in blue.



March 28, 2020

**Activation Level 2: Partial**

**Event Name: COVID-19**

## Situation

As of noon today, Sarasota County is reporting 48 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 40 Sarasota County residents and eight non-Florida residents. There have been two deaths in Sarasota County to date. All confirmed cases in Sarasota County are receiving the appropriate medical 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 and county specific data.

The Florida Department of Health is currently reporting a total of 3763 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Florida.

The second day of COVID-19 testing went very well, the team from DOH Sarasota and Sarasota Memorial Hospital collected 43 samples, while members of the Sarasota County Sheriff's office provided security and traffic control. DOH Sarasota expects results back in two to four days.

Testing is being done by appointment only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Twin Lakes Park and will resume Tuesday, March 31.

Yesterday, Governor DeSantis held a briefing at the Florida Capitol and a briefing via live stream, where he announced additional efforts to respond to COVID-19:

•The National Guard is now stationed at Palm Beach County International Airport and Ft. Myers International Airport to help enforce the Governor's order on travel from the New York Tri-State area. So far, the National Guard has collected 3,406 enforcement forms from New York travelers.

•All travelers from Louisiana will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This will be executed through checkpoints along major highways where drivers will be directed to stop and fill out information regarding their Florida stay. Sheriffs and FHP will take lead on this. DOT will be placing signage along major roadways entering Florida. This excludes commercial travel.

•Governor DeSantis is directing a 14-day moratorium on the operation of vacation rentals in Florida.

•Palm Beach County has developed a new state-supported testing site at the Ballpark of Palm Beaches.

•The state will provide 1,000 swabs to each of the four counties with the highest number of positive COVID-19 cases (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Hillsborough).

•As of today, SNAP recipients will receive an increased monthly allotment for March and April.

•The Governor has directed sales and use taxes to be due on April 30 (originally due April 20), and property taxes to be due April 15 (originally due March 31).

•The Governor asked the Attorney General to investigate Larkin Community Hospital in Hialeah in Miami-Dade, who has charged individuals \$150 to get tested for COVID-19. Tests are free statewide.

•The Governor directed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to issue Emergency Order to enforce social distancing on waterways.

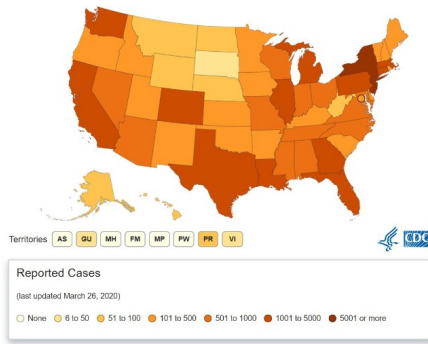
DOH Sarasota is monitoring community health trends on a daily basis to help identify any possible cases of COVID-19. Additionally, the department is serving as an expert resource for health care providers and the public, and working to make sure that health care providers know what to look for and what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

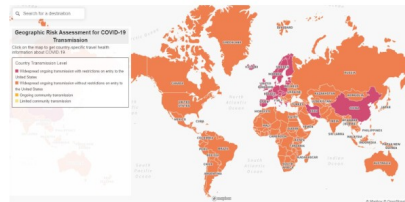
The Florida Department of Health reminds everyone that the elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness.

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.



COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country



## Possible Impacts

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

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.

## Watch, Warnings, Advisories

Global Level 4 Health Advisory - Do not travel.

Public Health Advisory for Vulnerable Populations, Gatherings of Private Citizens and Density of the Workforce.

## Global Level 4 Health Advisory

The Department of State has issued a Global Level 4 Health Advisory, advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19.

## High Risk Countries

Depending on your travel history, you will be asked to stay home for a period of 14 days from the time you left an area with widespread or ongoing community spread (Level 3 Travel Health Notice).

## Cruise Ship Travel

CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Warning for cruise ship travel.

### Sarasota County Actions

The Department of Health in Sarasota County, Sarasota County and Sarasota Memorial Hospital established a COVID-19 appointment only drive-thru specimen collection site at Twin Lakes Park beginning March 26 for symptomatic people who meet current CDC testing guidance.

Sarasota County with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and Executive Policy Group is monitoring social distancing measures being considered by Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Orange, and Pinellas Counties.

Employee Health and Benefits announced Virtual EAP sessions to help employees cope with stress.

Park amenities (courts, playgrounds, dog parks) have closed effective Wednesday March 25.

Effective March 23, Sarasota County's Permitting Center and Utilities Customer Services at 400 S. Tamiami Trail will move temporarily to 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota. Customers may conduct business by using phone, e-mail and online service options. Customers who come in-person will experience increased wait times and will be health screened. SCAT began modified Saturday service on Monday March 23.

Visitor screenings are being performed at Admin. and BOB.

For COVID-19 text updates from Sarasota County Government, text SRCOVID19 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.

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

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

The County Administrator extended the emergency declaration through March 29, 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 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.

### 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, 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).

### Essential Elements of Information

<b>3054</b> Florida Cases	<b>Declared</b> Local State of Emergency	<b>Declared</b> State of Emergency	<b>Declared</b> Federal Emergency	<b>Level 1</b> State EOC Activation	<b>97226</b> USA Cases
<b>6462</b> Text Alert Opt-ins	<b>03/16 - 04/15</b> Schools Closed	<b>1665</b> Currently Monitored	<b>144</b> Non-Florida Resident Cases	<b>772</b> Contact Center Calls Answered Daily Total	<b>11 seconds</b> Contact Center Wait Time
<b>46</b> Florida Deaths	<b>116</b> Parks Open	<b>11</b> Libraries Closed	<b>03/29/20</b> LSE Expiration	<b>586140</b> Global Cases	<b>40250</b> Number of People Tested
<b>Activated</b> Fire - DOC	<b>Activated</b> Health Department - DOC	<b>Activated</b> Parks - DOC	<b>Partial</b> Libraries - DOC	<b>Partial</b> Public Works - DOC	<b>Partial</b> Public Utilities - DOC

### Directors

Finance and Administration requests all directors to help procurement prioritize requests.

Reminder for all departments to send any communications through [communications@scgov.net](mailto:communications@scgov.net).

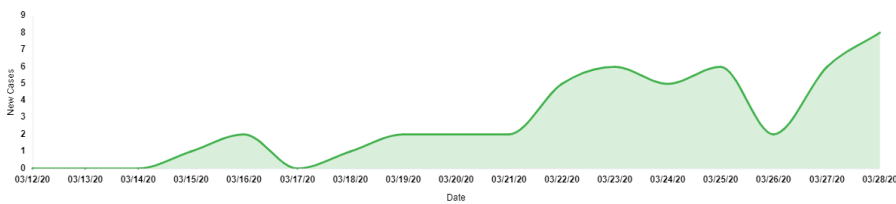
Public Records Request continue to come in and departments are responsible for responding in a timely fashion.

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](mailto:news@scgov.net). If the situation escalates, Flash Reports will be replaced with Situation Reports.

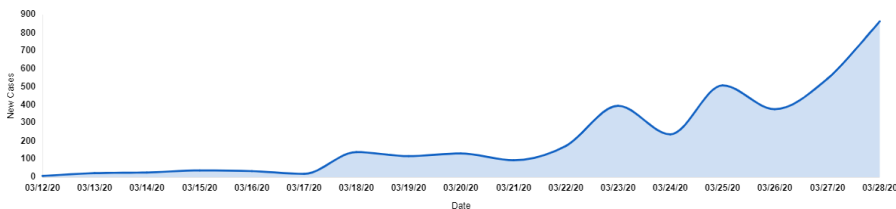
### All Agencies and Partners

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.

### New Cases in Sarasota

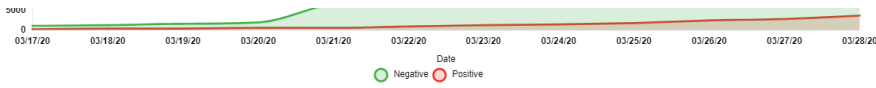


### New Cases in State of Florida

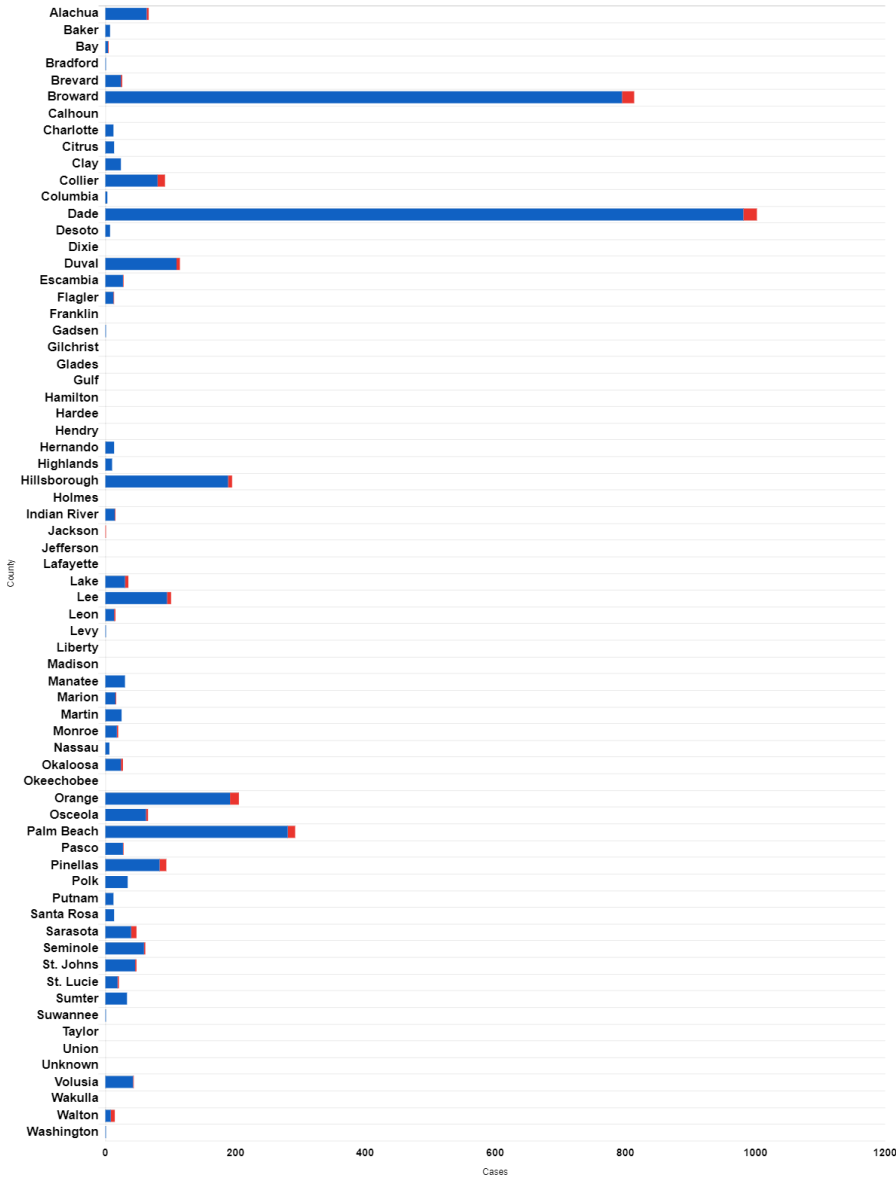


### Negative vs. Positive Results in State of Florida

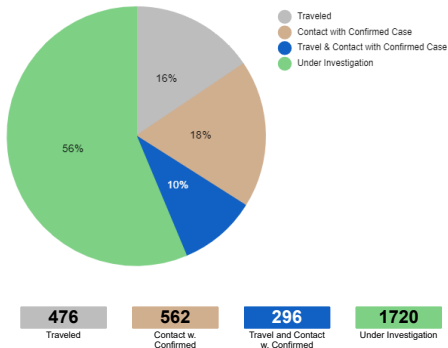




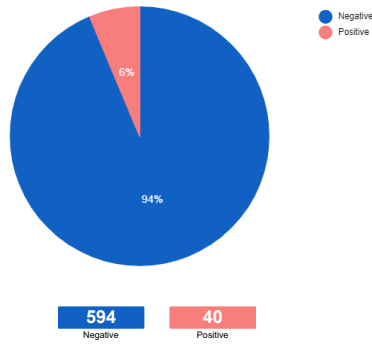
### Number of Cases Per County



### COVID-19 Case Overview in State of Florida



### Number of People Tested in Sarasota County



### Faith Based



### Travel



### Emergency Declaration



### Emergency Order



Schools



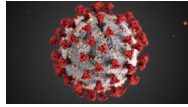
Businesses



Executive Order



Public Health Emergency Declaration



Flash Reports

CDC COVID-19

FDOH COVID-19

FAQ



Prepared By: James Podlucky  
Approved By: Jerry Wheeler