



Sarasota County Emergency Management

Flash Report #19



March 16, 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 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

Situation

As of noon today, Sarasota County currently has three cases, (70-year-old male, 80-year-old male and an 87-year-old male), as well as a 67-year-old female resident of Manatee County. All of them are currently being treated at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. These individuals are isolated and will continue to remain isolated until cleared by public health officials.

The Florida Department of Health is reporting there are 155 total Florida cases:

This includes 19 additional positive COVID-19 cases (14 Florida residents and 5 non-Florida residents) were reported to the Florida Department of Health.

There are currently 137 positive cases in Florida Residents and 18 positive cases in non-Florida residents.

Sunday, in a briefing at the State Emergency Operations Center, Governor DeSantis announced the following:

At the Governor's direction, a public-private partnership has been put in place between Memorial Healthcare in Broward and the National Guard to set up a mobile testing unit.

Governor DeSantis has directed the Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary Halsey Beshears, in coordination with the Florida Department of Health, to issue social distancing guidance to restaurants and bars.

Governor DeSantis sent a letter to the federal Small Business Administration to turn on the SBA loan program for small businesses.

Governor DeSantis directed the Department of Management Services Secretary Jonathan Satter to allow state employees to donate and transfer their available leave time to other state employees to mitigate the impacts of school closures.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated about global travel on cruise ship, including river cruises, please see the summary below:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all persons defer any travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide because of the increased risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission onboard ships. Deferring travel is especially important for older adults and all people with serious chronic medical conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes or lung disease), because of their increased risk for severe disease. This health update provides information to clinicians and state and local health departments about the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation and the risks associated with travel on cruise ships, including river cruises.

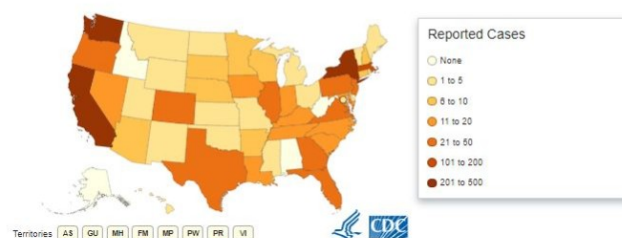
DOH continues to visit all licensed long term care facilities in Sarasota County to ensure proper COVID-19 infection control guidelines as established by the CDC are being used to prevent the spread of the virus.

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.

Locations with Reported Cases in the U.S.

COVID-19 Cases in the U.S.

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



Sarasota County Actions

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

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 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.

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.

Sarasota County Emergency Management will be participating in conference calls with the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

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.

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 press releases

cleaning 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).

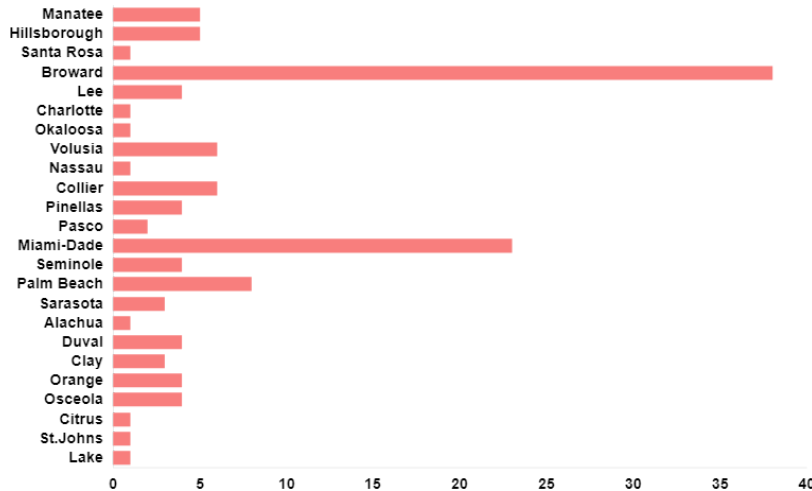
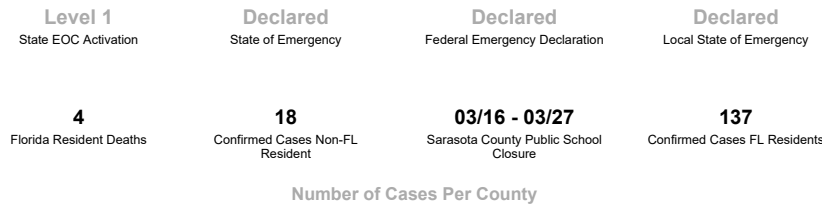
Travel Levels

Warning - Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel

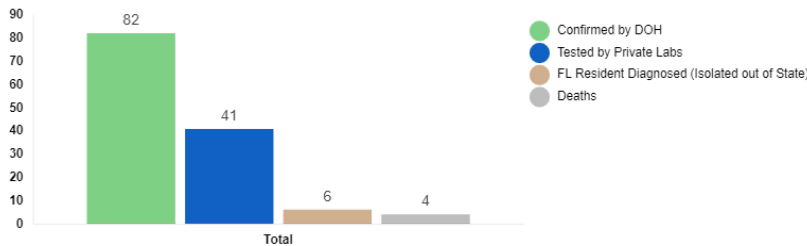
Alert - Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions

Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions

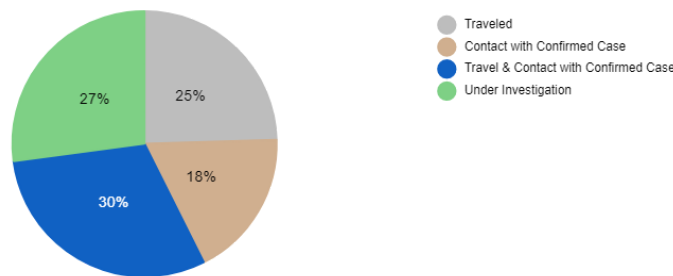
Essential Elements of Information



Florida Residents



COVID-19 Case Overview



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](#))

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



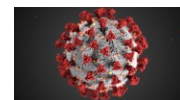
Emergency Order



Executive Order



Public Health Emergency Declaration



Travel



Businesses



Schools



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



Faith Based



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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

