



Sarasota County Emergency Management

Flash Report #21



March 18, 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 cases remain at four with three cases being local to Sarasota and one case in a Sarasota County resident that was tested and treated in Broward County. Currently two of the individuals are being treated at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and two individuals have been discharged from the hospital.

The Florida Department of Health is reporting a total of 283 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Florida.

Beach goers are asked to practice social distancing while on the beach. Groups should be kept to under 10 people.

Yesterday, Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), provides short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. The application period is open and runs through May 8, 2020. Interested businesses should visit FloridaDisasterLoan.org for more information.

The Florida Department of Health is prioritizing testing of symptomatic individuals who had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case, are part of an outbreak, or have unexplained respiratory illness. Please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Alert Network 429 <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00429.asp> for additional guidance on prioritization of testing. The Department recommends other individuals be tested at a commercial laboratory (e.g., LabCorp and Quest).

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.

Sarasota County Actions

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 - 19:00hrs daily.

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

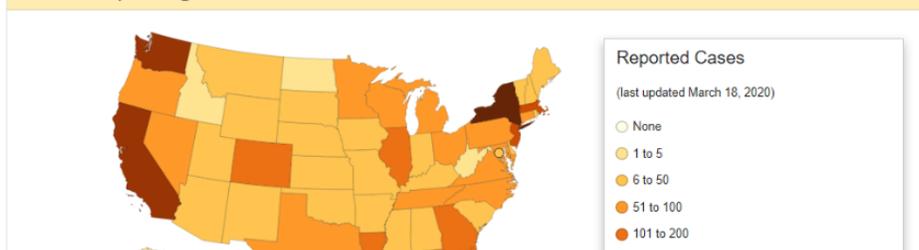
A COVID-19 Emergency Requisition Request Form must be included with all COVID-19 WebEOC Resource Requests entered by counties, including personal protective equipment (N-95 mask, hand sanitizer, etc.) and testing supplies.

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 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

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC*



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



COVID-19

Should I Get Tested?

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

If you have returned from ANY international travel or a cruise within the last 14 days and you have fever, cough or shortness of breath, OR if you have been in close contact with someone who has recently returned from international travel or a cruise and has any of the symptoms above:

- CALL your health care provider or county health department (CHD).
- SCAN the code for the CHD finder.

If your travel history has not put you at risk, take note:

If you have been in close contact with someone who may have or had COVID-19, and you have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, or you have an underlying medical condition like diabetes or heart disease, or a history of cancer.

Call, do not visit, your CHD or health care provider. It's IMPORTANT to call ahead before visiting your CHD or health care provider. Offices must take proper steps to avoid further spread of COVID-19 when a concerned patient arrives for a medical appointment.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are **fever, cough and shortness of breath.** Some patients have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.

These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people recover from the disease without needing special treatment.

What if I test positive for COVID-19?

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- Wear a facemask when around others.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces everyday

Learn more:

tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention

tinyurl.com/FLcovidsick

communications and 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



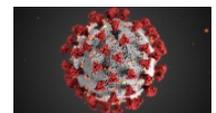
Emergency Order



Executive Order



Public Health Emergency Declaration



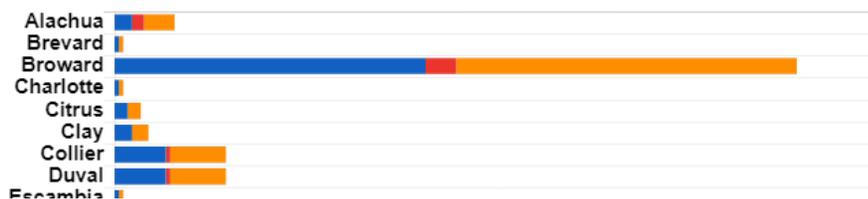
Travel

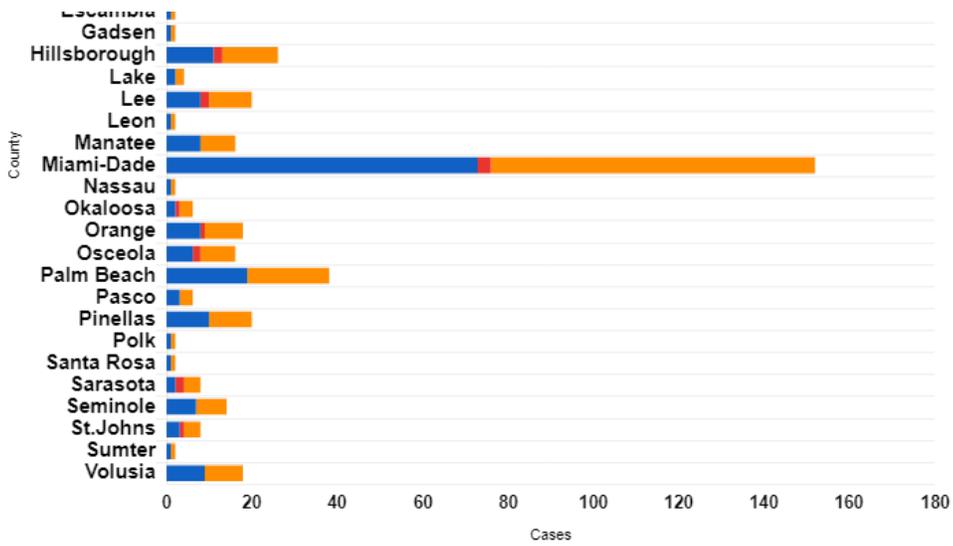


Essential Elements of Information

Level 1 State EOC Activation	Declared State of Emergency	Declared Federal Emergency	Declared Local State of Emergency
7 Florida Deaths	7324 USA Cases	207518 Global Cases	289 Florida Cases
03/16 - 04/15 Schools Closed	25 Non-Florida Resident Cases	878 Currently Monitored	2493 Number of People Tested

Number of Cases Per County





Businesses



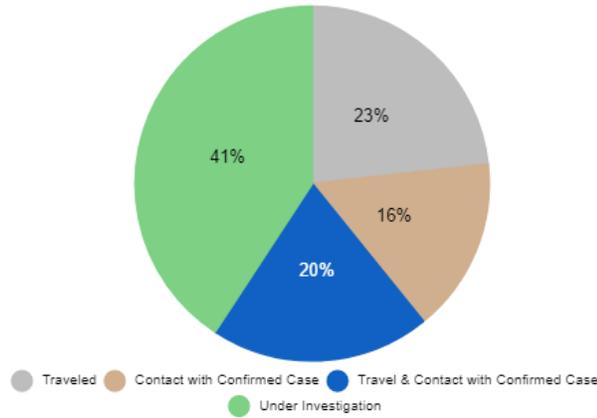
Schools



Faith Based

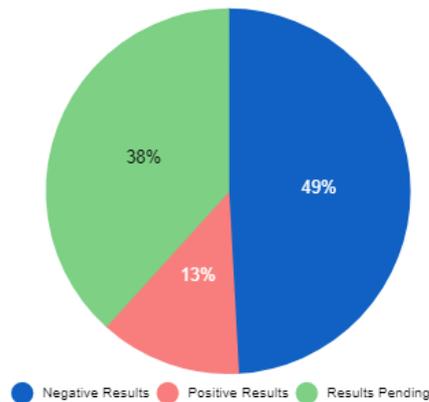


COVID-19 Case Overview



Prepared By:
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Approved By:
Scott Montgomery

Number of People Tested



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. Please visit the CDC travel advisories related to COVID-19, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

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.

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

