



Governor Ron DeSantis and the members of the Task Force to Re-Open Florida held an organizational call this afternoon, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Agenda: <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/covid19/Agenda%20Executive%20Meeting%2004%2020%2020%20Final.pdf>

**Governor Ron DeSantis' Introductory Remarks:**

- Commend members on doing great work
- Media and experts predicted we would have an overwhelming of the hospital general and ICU beds, but due to decisions made, we are actually at an increase of capacity
  - NY- 87.2 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, FL- 9.8 hospitalizations per 100,000
  - NY- 25.8 ICU hospitalizations per 100,000 residents, FL- 3.5 ICU hospitalizations per 100,000
  - Number one reason we embarked on this was to keep hospital capacity there
  - People said Florida would be worse than New York because of our population
    - NY has 25x as many fatalities as Florida even though we have 2 million more people
  - Our restrictions have overwhelmingly worked, our providing of PPE has worked
  - Have been clear from the beginning on protecting on our elderly
- Southeast Florida compose 60% of infections and over 60% of hospitalizations and fatalities
  - Appreciate the progress the South Florida mayors made
- Important to have testing moving forward
  - Have done 265,000 tests statewide
  - One test for every 60 people in South Florida
  - Working with White House to get “point-of-care” tests, need to license more point-of-care manufacturers
  - Understand that anyone who is symptomatic has a place to go
  - Medicaid reimbursement has been increased to \$100 for tests to allow greater access to tests
  - Other testing we will do is anti-body tests
    - Those tests determine if you have anti-bodies which would show someone had the virus already
    - Stanford determined that 50 and 80 times the people who tested positive for Covid had the anti-bodies
    - This is significant because it shows that so many people had it but didn't show symptoms
    - Much broader group of people had this than actually demonstrated the virus

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- WHO said not so fast to demonstrating immunity, but they also said this wasn't contagious person-to-person in January
- This is all important to get the economy going again
  - Important for businesses to start thinking about what this will look like going back
  - Some are saying May is optional and doing what they can to have people working less physically close to each other
  - May see less business travel from an economic perspective not just a health perspective
  - Think about how safe restaurants and others are to physically visit
  - What we must look at is most transmissions are in closed indoor environments so how do we re-imagine what the re-opening looks like
  - Florida's economy was really heating up prior to this and we want to think about the path back to minimize the damage

### **Overview of Florida's Economy (Florida Chamber of Commerce)**

***Presentation accessed here, remarks beyond statistics and points shared are in notes below:***

***[https://www.flgov.com/wp-](https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/covid19/20200420%20Florida%20Strike%20Force%20Briefing.pdf)***

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- Florida At A Glance
  - We were on pace for a record year for good reasons, now looking at a record for another reason
  - 90% of growth is migration from other states and nations
  - 14 million visitors from other countries
- Florida Scorecard
  - Important to think about diversification in rural areas, not just urban areas
- Surgical Approach
  - Must think about importance of tourism, Florida's population age, and the significance of hurricane season around the corner
- GDP and Job by Sector
  - Important to think about both the GDP impact by sector but also the employment share by sector
- Jobs at Risk Because of Proximity to Others
  - Normally you think about jobs that can be impacted by recession, but we have to think about the total number of jobs vulnerable with social distancing requirements and practices in place
- Impact on Small Business
  - 3.4 million jobs at risk out of 10 million jobs currently
    - 36% from small businesses



- GDP Scenarios
  - Optimistic scenario return to pre-crisis quarter: 2020 Q4
  - Pessimistic scenario return to pre-crisis quarter: 2024 Q2
- Risk by Sector
  - Important to understand an industry like construction can be in multiple categories where something like cabinet makers are less susceptible to social distancing than a road construction
- Risk by Sector and Company Size
  - Some small businesses will be impacted differently than others within industries
- Sectors Mapped
  - Again important to think about rural communities within these sectors as they will take longer to respond
- Detailed Data by Sector
  - Think about it on a sub-sector level
- Tax Receipts by Industry
  - Important to think about how this impacts state revenue by tax generation
  - \$4 billion in tax receipts from auto industry, by far the most of any sector

#### Questions from Executive Committee Members

- Alex Sanchez, President of Florida Banker's Association- thank you to Governor for his leadership, Florida ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in nation in terms of processed amount of PPP loans and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the amount of \$18 billion
- Pat, Lockheed Martin- compliment on Florida's proactive approach
- Dale Holness, Mayor of Broward County- gratitude to Governor, just wanted to re-iterate the importance of the anti-bodies test, how soon will that be made available?
  - Governor- thank you to you for all your work, we have ordered 100,000 tests that are supposed to be delivered this week. As you know, something we need to change, most of this is manufactured in China. We need to be thoughtful about how we can do this and extrapolate the data. Again, hopeful it will arrive this week, but we ordered as soon as it was FDA approved. We understand it's a serious pathogen, but understanding how few of people actually were hospitalized, it will be a restoration of confidence.
  - Surgeon General- working with a group who screens the blood supply in Florida. Just wanted 1/3 of colds are caused by a coronavirus, so it is important to make sure we are getting the appropriate Covid-19 test.
- Should we consider a standard to establish minimum qualifications of testing?
  - Governor- what the General said is so important to identify anti-bodies that are unique to Covid-19. State labs are being built out too. Problems with how some of the rapid

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tests have been administered, there is an Abbott lab testing machine in the White House to test anyone who enters. We want as much convenience as possible. The worst thing we can do is have a false negative and that person spreads as a Super Spreader.

## **Update on COVID-19 Response (Department of Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz)**

- Thank you, Governor, for creating this and the task force for their time, also to the first responders and DEM workers
- Federal partners have been fantastic
- This disaster is very unique, first time all 50 states are under disaster declarations
- Waiting for response on Governor's request for 100% reimbursement
  - FEMA is currently 75% reimbursement
  - Applying first under HHS grant program which is 100% reimbursement
- 15,000 mission requests (300 after Hurricane Michael)
- Moving supplies by trucks, vans and chartered aircraft
- Over next 48 hours we will push out to long-term care facilities
  - 5 million masks
  - 200,000 face shields
  - 500,000 gloves
- Running these missions through May, hopefully locals will be able to procure their own supplies as supply chains open up, but we will continue to plug in gaps
- Thanks to all the businesses that sent commodities to the Department
- Original focus was on hospital beds and ventilators
  - We procured hospital beds and personnel
  - Built 400 bed field hospital at Miami Beach Convention Center, the corps finished one week early, so we are now able to activate if necessary
  - Field hospitals open around the state
  - Original plan is to surge personnel into hospitals if and when needed
- Testing
  - Support eight largest testing sites in the state
  - Got rid of age requirements and federal caps so we can maximize testing in the state
  - This is why we are third in the nation in testing
  - Lately focused on testing in underserved communities
  - Requested 15 federal strike teams with 90 people to relieve
- Reviewed Hospital Capacity
  - Preparing for Hurricane season and looking at how to implement emergency operations during storm. Looking at Non-congregate shelters rather than mass shelters.
  - May look at where/when your house was built to determine if maybe you don't have to evacuate

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- Pushing more recovery dollars down to locals
  - \$369 million across the state most amount we've ever done in a 35-day period
  - Continuing to ensure they get those Hurricanes Irma and Michael dollars
- Thoughts for task force:
  - We've always focused on hurricane models and looked at different ones.
  - Don't just focus on one model.
  - Governor is extremely data focused and we look at data every day
  - Businesses need to have their own hurricane plans with PPE so that we don't have to require self-isolation afterwards
  - Think of PPE supply chain - bringing on businesses in Suwannee wouldn't have same PPE strain as Broward or Dade

### **Update on COVID-19 Cases & Health Info (Department Of Health Surgeon General Scott Rivkees)**

- Spoke about the behavior of the virus and best practices:
  - Attacks the respiratory system.
  - Individuals can be asymptomatic and spread the virus.
  - Can be highly contagious up to two days before any symptoms occur.
  - We require wearing masks, screening, isolating for 14 days, contact tracing, social distancing.
- Effects elderly
  - Focusing on Testing
  - Temperature testing of employees, restricted visitors, best practices in sanitation and hygiene, required masks for employees, FL National guard testing, and teams from HHS
- Hospitals prepared surge plans
  - Focus on testing. First public laboratory to have CDC approved test.
  - Launched our dashboard on March 13, 2020 [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov)
  - Partnered with schools on public health
  - Over 100 epidemiologists working on contact tracing
- Testing: 266,000 tested. 26,000 with COVID. 1300 hospitalized. 789 died. 10% percent
  - Compared to other states: NY tested 617,000; CA tested 280,000, FL tested 266,000 We rank 20th.
  - We rank 21st for Loss of life
  - Hospitalizations have been relatively stable
  - Continue to follow trends and react on evidence-based responses

### **Update on Florida's Healthcare Provider Capacity and Resources (Agency for Healthcare Administration Secretary Mary Mayhew)**

- Number of Tests
  - This has been a multi-agency team effort. Unprecedented, no playbook, and ever changing Federal guidelines.

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- Where we are at today is a testament to clear decisive decision making and constant communication.
  - Dr. Rivkees and I have done at least over 80 statewide calls with health providers, long-term care, and behavioral health providers.
  - Effective leveraging of Florida's emergency preparedness, strong state level coordination with our regional partnerships, clear prioritization of deliverables, and data-informed decision making.
- Elderly
  - FL has over 700 nursing homes, over 3000 Alfs serving over 160,000 individuals in Florida - our efforts have been focused on standing guard at those facilities.
  - ACHA has conducted over 1300 on-site visits, over 11,000 calls
  - Partner with DOH and county health departments. Critically important to acknowledge the partnership strengthened. Relationship between state and locals is stronger than it's ever been.
  - Shutting down visitation to nursing homes and shutting down congregate meals due to risk and has been challenging and disruptive to these individual's lives.
  - Prioritized training for long-term care, allowed personal care attendants to provide CNA services, flexibility to meet increased workforce required for screening.
  - Have also understood financial struggles and delayed payment of a quality assessment because of cash flow strain.
  - Worked with our community hospitals- skilled nursing and hospital partners to provide clear protocols for hospitalization and transfers
- Surge
  - Emergency status system is important to this process. We've continued to strengthen that system for increased data on bed capacity, PPE needs, and rate of hospitalization. Federal recognized this system as meets the needs of all hospital reporting so they will have no additional requirements.
  - Want to commend our hospitals on the level of regional collaboration, transparency and data sharing. Level of awareness that has prepared us well to move into the next phase and always be at the ready.
  - Identified over 30,000 beds, 6000 available ventilators, rooms that could be converted to ICU status and anesthesia machines, and dramatically rolled back elective procedures, (which contributed to our capacity but at an enormous cost to financial stability of our hospitals.)
- Preserving access to critical care
  - Major disruptions to access to behavioral health services, substance use disorder services, Adult Day programs and individual homes,
  - Worked to provide level of flexibility for providers to use telehealth and telephonic services
  - Has been important that we did not lose sight of all our vulnerable throughout the continuum of care to make sure no gaps in access to services while we also work to stop virus.

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## **Introduction of Working Groups and Calendar of Meetings (Governor's Chief of Staff Shane Strum)**

- Mission of the task force, important considerations of what major industries of Florida, how to develop recommendations and how we're going to reopen
- You'll be tested and working a lot. This is not going to be easy path
- Chris Spencer is main contact, OPB will oversee all staff work
- Will be many working groups. First three will meet on daily basis starting at 10am tomorrow morning, April 21st. Groups will be divided by high, medium, and low risk industries.
- We wanted to include everyone who wanted and make sure no industry or sector left out
- OPB will prepare a summary of each working group's discussion every day and distribute to exec committee prior to meeting.
- Exec committee will meet daily at 2pm to recap those discussions
- Final meeting of the executive committee will occur on Friday April 24 at 2pm unless additional time is required or needed. At this meeting, OPB will compile list of recommendations.
- We want to listen to every recommendation
- So far, we've gotten a lot of calls especially from restaurant industry.
  - Thought is that open outside dining, keep at 25 or 50% occupancy, maintain social distance, require reservations
- Another big one is health care, especially elective surgeries.