



The Governor held an afternoon Press Conference in the Cabinet Meeting Room today, April 2, 2020, in it he shared:

Governor's Remarks

- Cruise Ships
 - Broward County Government, BSO, Coast Guard, the State and the White House have worked on a thoughtful plan
 - There are 25 of these ships out there, two have Americans on board
 - Some of the other ships that are all foreign nationals would be difficult for us to accommodate
 - There is a relatively small number of people on board that will need help
 - Foreign nationals will leave on chartered planes, it will be a controlled exit
- Executive Order- Re-Employment Assistance
 - It had been a major jolt to the system
 - 348,511 claims in two weeks
 - Calls
 - Aug 2019 to Feb 2020 - 2.39 million calls
 - 2.1 million calls this week alone
 - Directing all agency heads to identify employees to deploy to DEO
 - We have 25,000 employees telecommuting or deemed non-essential
 - We want to identify all we have
 - Working with Verizon and AT&T on ways we can do this with social distancing
 - To be able to talk to people on the phone gives people a lot more peace of mind
 - We want processing to be much quicker to put manpower behind that
 - Because web portal is over capacity, we are creating a paper process
 - Ordering DEO to immediately purchase additional capacity software and technology to make sure the call center and staff can handle the additional volume
 - Top economic priority to help and we have identified creative options
- Executive Order- Foreclosure and Eviction Stays
 - Suspend foreclosure and evictions for 45 days
- Travel
 - Screened by air and car 11,000 people since Executive Order went into effect
- Elder Population
 - People 65 and older need to stay at home to limit contact with older people
 - 25% of infections
 - 54% of hospitalizations
 - 86% of deaths
- Hospital Bed Availability
 - Roughly 40% of beds are available
- Essential Services
 - The way to think about it is that the goal is to reduce contact with other people outside of the home

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- Less important what you do then how you do it
 - Do a ten mile run by yourself, but don't do a twenty person bike run
 - Shoot hoops outside, don't do a 5 on 5 pickup game
 - Go fishing with your son, don't take 20 people on a boat in a group outing
- Goal is to reduce transmission rate with limiting community spread
- Testing
 - I think we are now up to 80,000 tests administered.
 - Most are in the last three weeks.
 - North Palm Beach site up, working on another in the Boca Raton area.
 - We fortified all existing sites. There isn't enough demand to do sites in certain parts of the state.
 - We get 8-9,000 test results a day.
 - This will give us good information to track community spread

Press Questions

- Statistics
 - DOH isn't publishing these statistics. Some people will present in certain age groups and they don't need medical treatment. The other thing with the death statistics, we see age, but also important to see how many had people with underlying issues.
- Religious institutions
 - Government does not have authority to close a church, we got with churches and synagogues and said their services are more important, but please do it in a way that is in line with this overall mission. Having ten people spread out, or virtual is even better. It is crucial to have these services especially with Easter coming around but they need to be in line with social distancing.
- Clarification on Essential Services Executive Order
 - We have the baseline, if folks want to do more they can do more in certain areas. Each region is distinct. We are willing to work with locals on that as we have been since the beginning.
- Ability to Suspend Religious Institutions?
 - No we don't get rid of the constitution, but we want locals to work with religious leaders in getting it in a way that it works in line with social distancing guidelines.
- Essential Services Executive Order
 - We're doing is setting a floor and they can't go below the floor.
- Stricter CDC Guidelines
 - Not sure if that would be effective to do, we are in for a difficult time. We have an invisible enemy. The more people that engage in hysteria, the worse off we will be. We have said grocery stores can operate at 25% capacity if locals or the supermarkets want to do more they can.

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- Releasing Prison Population
 - We probably won't do that. If the US Surgeon General said we should do that then we will consider it. Releasing felons would not necessarily make things better.
- Northeast Travel Restrictions
 - They issued the advisory for the New York City area to refrain from non-essential travel. We don't want to accept flights from the number one hot zones. There is a legitimate reason to not totally shut down commercial air travel like volunteers. Perhaps more restrictions out of the hot zones, but certainly not into.
- Travel
 - Before the order, the airlines got up to 200 flights a day into Florida when they normally do 20-25 flights a day. With our communities sacrificing to stop the spread, how is it fair to have more people coming in and spreading seeds of the virus. We have seen a reduction in traffic overall.
- Social Distancing
 - I think people are taking pre-cautions, but there are risks when you do anything, certainly like going on the subway, but even at the grocery store. So now what you'll see is people may not sit there and touch and look at a bunch of bananas.