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Dear Friends,

SEE BELOW FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

The Governor, Department of Emergency Management, Department of Health, Local Leaders, and I are working diligently to respond to COVID-19. In an effort to keep you all safe and informed I have put together this COVID-19 Resource Guide. I am hopeful that this will provide you with the information that we receive from all government levels into one easy to digest place.

Although we are working remotely, my staff and I are here to help. Please reach out to us via email at Tina.Polsky@myfloridahouse.gov or call (561) 470-2086 as we are checking voicemails regularly.

For the most up to date information please follow me on Facebook, [@RepPolsky81](#).

Stay Safe!

Representative Tina Polsky

Important Announcements

- The testing site in **SOUTH COUNTY** is up and running. The testing site is located at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach.
 - Persons wishing to be tested must be preapproved and have an **appointment** before coming to the drive-thru center. Cleveland Clinic will be conducting phone screenings to set appointments. The number is **561-804-0250**. The phone interview will cover the presence of symptoms, possible exposures, and risk factors.
 - Please note, this site is exclusively for those over the age of 60, if you would like to be tested and do not qualify to be tested at the South County site you are still able to get tested at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches. You can contact the Health Care District of Palm Beach County testing line: (561) 642-1000 to be pre-screened and set up appointments.
- DEO has created a paper application as an additional avenue to start the application process. You can find it [here](#). I would suggest filling out the paper application while still trying the electronic or phone applications. This way you can cover all of the bases. If you are unable to print your own copy, you can pick up a copy of the application at the following locations:
 - Outside of my Boca Raton office, 8177 Glades Road, Suite 209, Boca Raton, 33428
 - Certain FedEx Locations throughout the county ([see list](#))
 - These locations will also mail the completed applications for free
 - Outside of certain Palm Beach County Library locations ([see list](#))
- Here are some updates on what DEO is doing to improve access to Reemployment Assistance, however, please note there will likely still be a significant backlog:
 - Waiving the waiting week, work search, and work registration requirements.
 - Updating the capability of the online application system, by installing 72 new servers, which will allow the system to handle up to 120,000 simultaneous claims at once.
 - Later this week an additional 10 servers will be installed.
 - Hiring more than 500 new Reemployment Assistant Representatives at the call

centers, as well as drafting other state employees to work through the claims and cut down on wait times.

- DEO has also created a mobile-friendly website for you to submit your application online. Once this application is completed and processed, you should be hearing back from DEO via phone or email to confirm the final details. You can apply through that site [here](#), under the Reemployment Assistance section you will find “Apply Now” and that will launch the application.
 - DEO has also crafted an [FAQ](#), that can hopefully address some of your questions, however, please contact me if you have any questions throughout the application process, and I will do my best to get you an answer.
- Next week, School Food Distributions will be on Monday, April 13, Wednesday, April 15, and Friday, April 17. Each student will receive two days worth of meals. Drivers, please remember, to pop your trunk or roll down a window when you arrive to minimize contact.
- The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) has launched Project VITAL, to distribute tablets to residents of Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes in an effort to keep families connected and help those living in these facilities combat feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- DOEA is also working with the Local Area Agencies on Aging, State Emergency Personnel, Feeding Florida, the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, and 4 Rivers to create a joint initiative to bring hot meals to Florida's senior citizens. Once this program is launched I will make sure to send all of the details to you.
- The State has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to build a temporary 450-bed hospital in the Miami Beach Convention Center. This hospital is scheduled to open on April 20.

District 81 COVID-19 Heroes!

SO PROUD OF THIS DISTRICT
COVID-19



Hero!

Our hero of the day is Jewish Family Services.

From JFS: This past Sunday, as part of the Adele Loeb and Les Nackman Meals on Wheels

Program, over 100 volunteer teams helped our neighbors celebrate Passover by delivering Passover meals and other groceries to seniors living in Boca Raton and Delray areas. Each volunteer team delivered between 3-5 meals to over a combined 500 households. Because of volunteer and client safety, we had to forgo the socialization aspect of the experience, as volunteers typically spend time with clients during the delivery. This year, all meals were placed outside of the clients' homes.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers and JFS Community Partner, JARC Florida, for preparing the meals delivered by our volunteers. We would also like to thank Publix Super Markets for donating the Passover hagaddahs which were included in each kit along with a list of synagogues who will be live streaming their Seders in the community.

SO PROUD OF THIS DISTRICT COVID-19



Hero!

Our hero of the day is Lakeside Medical Center, the only hospital serving the Glades region of Palm Beach County. They are stepping up like all our doctors, nurses and staff to take care of all of us during this crisis at great risk to their own health. Thank you for what you are doing today

and every day! You are all heroes. [#herooftheday](#) #lovedistrict81

SO PROUD OF THIS DISTRICT
COVID-19



Hero!

Today's hero of the day are the fearless officers of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office who keep all

of District 81 safe every day. They put themselves in harm's way each and every day and now during this crisis they are risking their health. Thank you to Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and all the PBSO staff as well. [#herooftheday](#) #lovedistrict81

SO PROUD OF THIS DISTRICT
COVID-19



Hero!

There are multiple heroes for this post, but pictured here is Anthony Mule, who owns West Boca Dry Cleaners. Before he had to close his store, he made and donated over 200 masks! Thank you from all of us for your generosity. Here is the story of how this project happened from my dear friend and fabulous constituent, Lynda Frost:

Rabbi Greg Weisman reached out to me to ask if I would coordinate efforts through Temple Beth El of Boca to make fabric masks for local hospital workers and patients. Rachel Guran, is the Director of Epidemiology and Infection Prevention for Memorial Healthcare Systems and is also a temple member and member of the temple's Covid-19 Task Force. All masks are being donated to her. I reached out to many local friends. And then, I reached out to Lisa and Joe Mulè, owners of JM Cleaners on Lyons Rd. Between Glades and Yamato, because I thought their seamstress may be able to donate her time to making some masks while their business is slow right now. She was unavailable, but Lisa quickly put me in touch with her brother in law, Anthony Mulè, owner of West Boca Dry Cleaners in the Bagelworks shopping center. Not only was Anthony happy to help, he effectively turned his business into a mask making shop!! He just wanted to help people and wanted nothing in return. He is a true hero with a huge heart! [#herooftoday](#) [#lovedistrict81](#)

If you know a COVID-19 Hero who should be recognized, please send me an email with a picture and description of what they are doing during this crisis (and their permission for me to post) to Tina.polsky@myfloridahouse.gov.

Previous Announcements and Information

Department of Health

The Department of Health has launched a new [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#), which will be updated twice daily to bring you the most up to date information on the spread of the virus.

What you need to know about COVID-19

Symptoms

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have had mild to severe respiratory illness with

symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How does it spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). This is why it is important to practice social distancing. Even if you yourself are not at risk, you may be a carrier, and staying home can help protect the most vulnerable in our community.
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Adults 60 years or older and those with underlying medical conditions are more likely to develop serious illness.

Testing Site Updates

- A new testing site in **SOUTH COUNTY** will be opening tomorrow, April 7. The testing site will be located at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach.
 - Persons wishing to be tested must be preapproved and have an **appointment** before coming to the drive-thru center. Beginning today, Cleveland Clinic will be conducting phone screenings to set appointments. The number is **561-804-0250**. The phone interview will cover the presence of symptoms, possible exposures, and risk factors.
- Please note, the testing site at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches will likely be opening and closing several times throughout the weeks to come, as they can only schedule appointments based on the number of test kits they receive. If you are experiencing symptoms, have come in contact with someone who has tested positive, or have recently traveled to a COVID-19 hotspot, please call the hotline, (561) 642-1000, for a pre-screening and appointment.
 - Results from tests at the site are expected within five to six days.

- Although this site is open, I want you to know that I am still concerned that there are no drive-thru testing sites in South Palm Beach County and will continue to work with the State and Federal emergency operations to bring such a site to District 81. Please know that our area is a high priority and we will continue to work on this.
- The new drive-thru testing site at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches will begin testing on Tuesday, March 31. In order to be tested, you must be pre-screened and have an appointment-there will be NO walk-ins. You can contact the Health Care District of Palm Beach County testing line: (561) 642-1000 to be pre-screened and set up appointments.



Palm Beach County COVID-19 Testing Site – FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches

- What:** A Palm Beach County COVID-19 drive thru testing site in collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, the Florida National Guard, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management.
- Where:** FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches
5444 Haverhill Road
West Palm Beach, Florida. *Entry on Haverhill Road.*
- When:** Telephone registration and appointment scheduling will begin on Monday, March 30, 2020 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. On-site testing (swab sample collection only) will begin on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.
Preapproval and appointments are required.
- Who:** Individuals requesting testing will be approved through telephone screening conducted by the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. Screening criteria will include presence of symptoms, exposures, and risk factors.
- How:** Call Health Care District of Palm Beach County testing line: (561) 642-1000. A brief telephone interview will be conducted to determine eligibility for COVID-19 testing. Callers approved for testing will be given an appointment date and time slot for arrival at the testing site. Upon arrival at the site, a rapid check-in procedure will be conducted that will include verification of appointment time. Individuals without appointments will be turned away and directed to call the Health Care District of Palm Beach County to schedule an appointment. The check-in procedures and the testing (swab sample collection) will be conducted through an open window of the vehicle. No one will be permitted to leave their vehicles.
- Results:** Testing results will be reported to the Health Care District of Palm Beach County who will notify the patient and the Palm Beach County Health Department. Results can be expected within 2-3 days, however, it may take longer. Individuals testing positive will be advised of isolation and quarantine protocols and referred for medical care if necessary.
- Cost:** Free

- Please note, the COVID-19 hotline is experiencing a very high call volume with extended wait times. Your call is important and they are doing their best to get to each and every call as quickly as possible.

State Updates

- The Governor has signed a new executive order that will allow small businesses to collect monies from the Federal CARES Act without any state income taxes.
- The State has launched a Community Action Survey. The survey will assess what Floridians are doing to flatten the curve. Visit www.StrongerThanC19.com to take the survey today.
- The Florida Department of Education has created a webpage to ensure teachers, students and parents have a one-stop-shop for their educational needs throughout this time of distance learning. This webpage, www.fldoe.org/em-response includes free resources including best practices for distance learning, frequently asked questions, and guidance ranging from topics including assessments, IEPs, instructional hours, and many more. It also includes resources in Spanish.
- Governor DeSantis has issued a statewide stay-at-home order, requiring everyone to limit their movements and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities.

30-DAY SAFER-AT-HOME EXECUTIVE ORDER

Effective: April 3rd at 12:01 am

1

SAFER AT HOME

- All persons in Florida shall limit leaving home to only essential activities and providing essential services.
- Senior citizens and individuals with underlying medical conditions shall stay at home and take all measures to limit risk of exposure.

2

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- All essential services are not affected.
- Businesses and organizations encouraged to provide delivery or curbside service to the greatest extent practicable.
- Individuals are encouraged to work from home.

3

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

- Attending religious services conducted in churches, synagogues, and houses of worship.
- Participating in recreational activities such as walking, hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming (consistent with social distancing guidelines).
- Taking care of pets.
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one or friend.

A social

