

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 12, 2020**

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## **The State of Florida Issues COVID-19 Updates**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The State of Florida is responding to COVID-19. As of Friday, June 5 the state has moved into Phase 2 of Florida’s reopening plan. The Florida Department of Health will now issue this update once per week. However, DOH will continue to update the COVID-19 dashboard and post the state report daily.

Governor Ron DeSantis is in constant communication with Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz and State Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees as the State of Florida continues to monitor and respond to the threat of COVID-19.

This week, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the state of Florida’s plan to disburse up to \$1.275 billion in CARES Act funds to counties with a population below 500,000. Using a phased approach, the Florida Division of Emergency Management will distribute funds to the remaining counties, beginning with an initial disbursement of 25% of each county’s allocation. Learn more [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).

This week, Governor DeSantis and Commissioner Richard Corcoran also announced recommendations for local communities to consider as they finalize plans to reopen safe and healthy schools that are set up for success. This plan outlines nearly \$475 million in state directed education financial assistance provided to Florida through the CARES Act. More information on the recommendations can be found [here. \[lnks.gd\]](#)

### **Recent actions the state has taken to respond to COVID-19:**

- The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) announced that they partnered with Home Depot and Quest Diagnostics to create three additional testing sites. Locations are available [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- To date, the Division has sent the following PPE to support health care workers and first responders:
  - More than 30.5 million masks
  - More than 11.2 million gloves
  - Nearly 1.7 million face shields
  - More than 1.1 million shoe covers
  - More than 1.4 million gowns
  - More than 91 thousand goggles
  - Nearly 54 thousand coveralls
- To date, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has made more than 1,600 onsite visits to facilities and more than 21,000 telephone calls to residential providers statewide to provide support and determine emergent needs of facilities.

- The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) issued [Emergency Order 2020-08 \[Inks.gd\]](#) which extends the deadlines for examination eligibility and licensure eligibility through December 31, 2020, for professional licenses regulated pursuant to Chapter 455, Florida Statutes, and the related professional practice acts. The Order supersedes section 4 of DBPR Emergency Order 2020-03, which had previously extended these deadlines through May 31, 2020.
- Governor Ron DeSantis has directed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to continue waiving the work search and work registration requirements for claimants through July 4, 2020. Additionally, the waiting week requirement will continue to be waived through August 1, 2020.
- Florida Education Commissioner Corcoran issued Emergency Order 2020-EO-04 and 2020-EO-05 that:
  - Provides students will pathways to meet eligibility requirements for the Bright Future Scholarship including flexibility to satisfy volunteer hour requirements and extends the date a student can take the SAT and ACT.
  - Provides greater flexibility for early learning providers to deliver high quality summer instruction and recovery services.
- The Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) Restaurant Meal Initiative, when combined with traditional meal delivery, has increased over 200 percent, and the total number of DOEA restaurant meals alone stands at over 690,000.
- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) Assistant Secretary for Aging Lance Robertson provided an update on DOEA COVID-19 efforts to the Florida Aging Network.
- DOEA participated in a consultation group roundtable call with Region IV of the State Units on Aging (SUA) and the SUA Directors for the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- DOEA distributed a Mental Health Campaign entitled, "Talk It Out" to the Executive Directors of all 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).
- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to implement their phased reopening of the Florida State Parks. Approximately 172 of 175 Florida State Parks and trails are partially opened. As these parks are reopening, DEP is taking measures to ensure the protection of staff and the public. During this phase of reopening, visitors should expect limited hours, capacity and amenities. See the latest park and trail information [here](#).
- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is coordinating with the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association to test law enforcement exposed to mass gatherings for COVID-19.
- Since March 1, 2020, Floridians have conducted over 1.4 million motor vehicle and credential transactions virtually through the department's online services webpage: [com \[Inks.gd\]](#). FLHSMV encourages Floridians who can to complete their driver license or motor vehicle transactions online, rather than in person at a driver license office.
- Approximately 2,215 Florida National Guardsmen (FLNG) are mobilized to support Florida's response to COVID-19.
- FLNG has expanded its support to mobile testing teams and the community-based and walk-up test sites. To date, the FLNG has assisted in the testing of more than 361,608 individuals for the COVID-19 virus.

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) has received 8 pallets of cloth masks from the State Emergency Operations Center. A pallet of 22,500 masks was sent to the six APD regional offices and to APD Headquarters. The masks will be distributed to APD employees, group homes and other providers to protect APD customers.
- FDOT continues to lead the coordination of DOH and the Florida Highway Patrol to implement Executive Order 20-86 at the I-95 checkpoint. To date, more than 34,300 traveler forms have been collected at the I-95 checkpoint.
- FDOT continues to coordinate with public use airports, DOH and law enforcement to implement Executive Order 20-80. To date, more than 84,800 traveler forms have been collected at public use airports across the state.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has resumed committal services in Florida's VA National Cemeteries. To make burial arrangements, contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.

### **Additional actions the state has taken to respond to COVID-19:**

#### **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

- The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announced that antibody COVID-19 test results data is now available. This report will be provided once a week and contains county, race and lab information on antibody COVID-19 tests conducted in Florida. That report is available [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- To date, DOH has reported more than 1,000 contact tracers who are assisting with COVID-19 efforts across the state.
- DOH announced that the list of long-term care facilities in Florida associated with COVID-19 cases will now include active cases in each facility in order to provide real-time data. The list of long-term care facilities with active COVID-19 cases is available [here](#).
- DOH is providing a report detailing surveillance data for every Florida county. Previously, this information was only available for select communities. The surveillance data report is available [here](#).
- At the direction of Governor DeSantis, State Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees declared a Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 in Florida.
- DOH established a public call center for questions regarding COVID-19. The call center launched Monday, March 2, and is open 24/7.
- DOH established mechanisms for monitoring and coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding epidemiological activities.
- DOH distributed CDC Interim Guidance for public health personnel evaluating Persons Under Investigation (PUI) and asymptomatic close contacts of confirmed cases at their home or non-home residential settings to CHDs.
- DOH approved and disseminated an updated Clinician Screening Tool for identifying COVID-19 PUIs.
- DOH implemented testing at all three State Public Health Laboratories and distributed updated laboratory guidance regarding implementation of testing at State Public Health Laboratories.
- DOH has worked to implement additional private lab testing.
- DOH has developed and disseminated pandemic planning guidance.

- Advised CHDs and HCCs to retain expired personal protective equipment until further notice.
- DOH is continuing support for long-term care facilities with REST teams. DOH strike teams have completed assessments for 3,874 long term care facilities to determine immediate unmet needs and promote appropriate infection control practices.
- DOH strike teams are continuing to respond to long term care facilities with COVID-19 positive patients.
- In an effort to increase testing, Governor DeSantis has directed Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees on an emergency temporary basis to allow licensed pharmacists in Florida to order and administer COVID-19 tests.
- DOH is working with Florida's Board of Pharmacy and Florida's Department of Business and Professional Regulation on mobile pharmacy compliance guidance.

## FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) announced that they partnered with Home Depot and Quest Diagnostics to create three additional testing sites. Locations are available [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- FDEM announced that an additional three COVID-19 testing sites across the state have been created through a partnership between Publix, FDEM and Quest Diagnostics. Locations are available [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- Five state-supported drive-thru testing sites located in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Orange and Duval counties are offering free antibody testing to anyone over the age of 18. The sites with antibody tests are:
  - FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, antibody testing is by appointment only and the site can accept up to 40 appointments per day
    - To make an appointment, call: 561-642-1000
  - Hard Rock Stadium, can test up to 125 individuals per day
  - Miami Beach Convention Center, can test up to 80 individuals per day
  - Orange County Convention Center, can test up to 125 individuals per day
  - TIAA Bank Field Lot J, can test up to 125 individuals per day
- At the direction of Governor DeSantis, the state has established 15 drive-thru and 15 walk-up testing sites across the state, with more coming online. More than 230,000 people have been tested at these sites. Floridians can find a site near them [here](#).
- To date, the Division has sent the following PPE to support health care workers and first responders:
  - More than 30.5 million masks
  - More than 11.2 million gloves
  - Nearly 1.7 million face shields
  - More than 1.1 million shoe covers
  - More than 1.4 million gowns
  - More than 91 thousand goggles
  - Nearly 54 thousand coveralls
- For long-term care facilities alone, the Division has sent:
  - More than 10 million masks
  - 1 million gloves

- More than 500,000 face shields
  - More than 900,000 gowns
- The Florida Division of Emergency Management has launched a website to track the mobile lab that is testing long-term care facilities across the state. The website is available [here](#).
- Find more information on DEM's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

- To date, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has made more than 1,600 onsite visits to facilities and more than 21,000 telephone calls to residential providers statewide to provide support and determine emergent needs of facilities.
- AHCA issued [Emergency Order NO. 20-003](#) providing financial relief to nursing homes and Intermediate Care Facilities during the state's public health emergency. The emergency order extends the deadlines for March and April 2020 Quality Assessment payments until June 15, 2020 for Intermediate Care Facilities, and June 20, 2020 for nursing homes.
- AHCA issued [Emergency Rule 59AER20-2](#) and [Emergency Rule 59AER20-3](#). These rules require nursing homes and assisted living facilities to grant access to the Florida Department of Health or their authorized representative for the purpose infection prevention and control, including mandated COVID-19 testing of both on-duty and off-duty staff when arranged by the Department.
- At the direction of Governor DeSantis, AHCA issued [Emergency Rule 59AER20-1](#) requiring hospitals to test all patients for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms, prior to discharge to long-term care facilities.
- AHCA sent out an email to nursing homes requiring the transfer of residents with verified or suspected cases if they cannot be appropriately isolated and adhere to the CDC recommendations for COVID-19 response.
- AHCA issued a provider alert announcing additional flexibilities within the Medicaid program made at the direction of Governor DeSantis. Authorization requirements and services limits for medically necessary behavioral health care for are now waived.
- AHCA created a new temporary Personal Care Attendant program to help long-term care facilities fill staffing shortages. The program provides an 8-hour training on assisting with direct care so that personal care attendants can temporarily perform additional duties.
- AHCA has been working with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to ensure current Medicaid recipients maintain benefits during the state of emergency. Medicaid application deadlines have also been extended.
- Find more information on AHCA's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

- The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) issued [Emergency Order 2020-08 \[lnks.gd\]](#) which extends the deadlines for examination eligibility and licensure eligibility through December 31, 2020, for professional licenses regulated pursuant to Chapter 455, Florida Statutes, and the related professional practice acts. The Order supersedes section 4 of DBPR Emergency Order 2020-03, which had previously extended these deadlines through May 31, 2020.

- DPBR has distributed [Additional Information for Barbershops and Cosmetology Salons Pursuant to Executive Order 20-120](#) and [FAQs for Executive Order 20-120 – Expanding Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery](#) to provide additional information and guidelines for barbershops, cosmetology salons, and cosmetology specialty salons.
- Find more information on DBPR’s response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- Governor DeSantis announced federal approval for the implementation of Florida’s Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program, which will automatically issue benefits during the month of June to more than 2.1 million children who have temporarily lost access to free and reduced-price school meals during COVID-19-related school closures.
- As part of her *Hope for Healing Florida* initiative, First Lady Casey DeSantis recently announced that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be receiving a \$1.9 million emergency grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which will provide crisis counseling and other mental health support for Floridians impacted by COVID-19.
- Per DCF’s request, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Florida’s waiver to permit the state to launch a pilot project that allows families to purchase groceries online with their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card beginning April 21, 2020.
- DCF worked with the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to develop precautionary protocols for child welfare professionals and adult protective investigators who may have to make in-person visits to ensure the safety of those vulnerable populations.
- Find more information on DCF’s response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

- The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) has distributed cloth face coverings to all correctional officers and inmates at correctional institutions statewide.
- FDC is closely aligned with the [CDC Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#).
- New inmate commitments from county jails undergo additional screening and 14-day quarantine before placement within the general population.
- FDC has suspended visitation at all correctional institutions statewide.
- Find more information on FDC’s response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

- Governor Ron DeSantis has directed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to continue waiving the work search and work registration requirements for claimants through July 4, 2020. Additionally, the waiting week requirement will continue to be waived through August 1, 2020.
- To comply with federal law, effective May 10, 2020, claimants for all Reemployment Assistance programs, including state Reemployment Assistance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, will be required to

return to the CONNECT system every two weeks to request their benefits or “claim their weeks.” In doing so, claimants will confirm that they are still unemployed and acknowledge that they are able and available for work should it be offered. For more information, click [here \[lnks.gd\]](#). If claimants, currently receiving Reemployment Assistance benefits, no longer wish to receive benefits, they do not need to claim their weeks, as payments will stop processing if weeks stop being claimed.

- DEO, in partnership with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, launched a website to verify the identity of claimants who have been locked out of their CONNECT account, the online system for processing Reemployment Assistance claims. Individuals who were locked out of their CONNECT account have been notified and provided a direct link to verify their information so they can access their account.
- DEO is administering the Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program. The program is offered by the federal CARES Act and provides up to 13 weeks of benefits to a claimant who has exhausted Reemployment Assistance. For more information, please click [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program that provides unemployment benefits to those that may not otherwise be eligible under Florida’s state Reemployment Assistance program is available. Eligibility includes independent contractors, gig workers and individuals who are self-employed. Working Floridians who have been impacted by COVID-19 and believe they may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, can visit [org](#) and select "File a Claim" to apply and be considered for PUA. Individuals may also call 1-833-FL-Apply (1-833-352-7759) for any questions they may have.
- DEO continues to provide updates on the efforts made to address the challenges to Florida’s Reemployment Assistance program in response to COVID-19. This includes the [State Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard](#) that is updated daily to reflect the total number of Reemployment Assistance Claims submitted, verified, processed and paid.
- DEO announced more than 1,000 small businesses have been awarded more than \$49 million from the [Florida Small Emergency Bridge Loan program](#).
- The Business Damage Assessment survey is activated and continues to accept surveys to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida’s local business operations and determine the appropriate actions for recovery. Click [here](#) to access the survey.
- Find more information on DEO’s response to COVID-19 [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Florida Education Commissioner Corcoran issued Emergency Order 2020-EO-04 and 2020-EO-05 that:
  - Provides students will pathways to meet eligibility requirements for the Bright Future Scholarship including flexibility to satisfy volunteer hour requirements and extends the date a student can take the SAT and ACT.
  - Provides greater flexibility for early learning providers to deliver high quality summer instruction and recovery services.
- To read the full re-opening of Florida’s schools and CARES ACT plan, visit [here \[lnks.gd\]](#).
- Find more information on DOE’s response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

- The Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) Restaurant Meal Initiative, when combined with traditional meal delivery, has increased over 200 percent, and the total number of DOEA restaurant meals alone stands at over 690,000.
- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) Assistant Secretary for Aging Lance Robertson provided an update on DOEA COVID-19 efforts to the Florida Aging Network.
- DOEA participated in a consultation group roundtable call with Region IV of the State Units on Aging (SUA) and the SUA Directors for the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- DOEA distributed a Mental Health Campaign entitled, "Talk It Out" to the Executive Directors of all 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).
- DOEA provided technical assistance to AAAs regarding shopping assistance, meals, service delivery, telephone reassurance, and the Restaurant Meal Initiative.
- Pursuant to Executive Order 20-52 issued by Governor DeSantis, the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) issued [Emergency Order 20-01 \[Inks.gd\]](#) pertaining to in-person guardian visitation requirements where COVID-19 response and mitigation measures prevent such visits.
- DOEA issued [Guidance in furtherance of Order 20-01 \[Inks.gd\]](#) for Public and Professional Guardians to remain in compliance with Florida Statute 744.361(14).
- Find more information on DOEA's COVID-19 response [here \[Inks.gd\]](#).

## ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

- Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) [recently launched \[Inks.gd\]](#) a [Virtual Trade Shows Grant Program \[Inks.gd\]](#) to allow companies to identify international clients and generate new export opportunities. Traditional international trade shows are being temporarily replaced by virtual events to promote safe worldwide business opportunities. For more information, please contact one of EFI's [Regional Trade Managers](#).
- EFI created a virtual trade grant program to help Florida companies do business overseas as international travel is restricted. Businesses interested in learning more about the new [Virtual Business Matchmaking](#) service should contact one of EFI's [Regional Trade Managers](#).
- EFI conducted regional calls with stakeholders across the state to identify ideas for long-range economic recovery.
- EFI suspended initial fees for its [Microfinance Loan Guarantee Program](#) to support Florida's small business community impacted by COVID-19. Interested businesses must apply through a local lender. For further information please contact your lender or visit [Enterprise Florida's website](#).
- See resources compiled by EFI for businesses impacted by COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) continues to implement their phased reopening of the Florida State Parks. Approximately 172 of 175 Florida State



Parks and trails are partially opened. As these parks are reopening, DEP is taking measures to ensure the protection of staff and the public. During this phase of reopening, visitors should expect limited hours, capacity and amenities. See the latest park and trail information [here](#).

- Areas of Florida State Parks managed by the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (ORCP) have been partially reopened, including remote access trails, beaches, and boat ramps at the Research Reserves. Islands, beaches, and submerged lands within the Aquatic Preserves are being reopened in accordance with local ordinances. See current information on ORCP-managed lands [here](#).
- Find more information on DEP's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA OFFICE OF FINANCIAL REGULATION**

- The Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) issued [Emergency Order 2020-03](#) temporarily expanding the motor vehicle retail installment initial payment rule.
- OFR issued [Emergency Order 2020-02](#) extending certain filing deadlines for Florida's financial services providers.
- OFR issued [Emergency Order 2020-01](#) extending certain renewal deadlines for money services businesses.
- OFR provided [guidance](#) for consumer finance businesses and professionals.
- OFR provided [guidance](#) and an [operational update](#) for Florida's securities businesses and professionals.
- OFR provided [informational guidance](#) and an [update](#) to Florida's financial institutions.
- OFR created helpful resource lists for businesses and individuals to contact their financial services providers:
  - [Florida Financial Institution Resource List](#)
  - [Top 40 Mortgage Servicers Resource List](#)
  - [Additional Financial Information and Resources List](#)
- Find more information on OFR's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

- Since March 1, 2020, Floridians have conducted over 1.4 million motor vehicle and credential transactions virtually through the department's online services webpage: [com \[lnks.gd\]](#). FLHSMV encourages Floridians who can, to complete their driver license or motor vehicle transactions online, rather than in person at a driver license office.
- The Florida Highway Patrol is assisting with the implementation and enforcement of [Executive Order 20-86](#) at the direction of Governor DeSantis.
- Pursuant to [Executive Order 20-52](#) issued by Governor DeSantis, FLHSMV Executive Director Rhodes has waived commercial truck hours of service regulations and other related regulations so that emergency supplies, equipment, commodities and resources can be moved more quickly and efficiently throughout the state.
- Find more information on FLHSMV's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION**

- As part of its ongoing effort to keep policyholders informed, the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) published a [list of resources](#) to connect Florida policyholders with assistance being offered by insurers in response to COVID-19.
- OIR issued Informational Memorandum [OIR-20-06M](#) providing guidance on the use of technology to help combat the spread of COVID-19, including encouraging insurers to broaden access to care for telehealth services, and requesting Pharmacy Benefit Managers to transition to an electronic audit process in order to avoid unnecessary risk and maintain social distancing.
- OIR issued Informational Memorandum [OIR-20-05M](#) reminding insurers of applicable statutes regarding workers' compensation insurance. Workers' compensation insurers are expected to comply with all of the provisions of Florida's Workers' Compensation Law.
- OIR issued [Informational Memorandum OIR-20-03M](#) directing all insurers and other entities regulated by OIR to review and update their business continuity and/or continuity of operations plans. Companies are directed to immediately contact OIR if their continuity plans are activated and/or if business operations become compromised so it can work with insurers to avoid any disruption in consumer services.
- OIR issued [Informational Memorandum OIR-20-04M](#) providing general guidance on the treatment of policyholders as part of the state's ongoing efforts to protect Floridians.
- OIR issued [Informational Memorandum OIR-20-02M](#) as a reminder to all health insurers, health maintenance organizations, and other health entities to allow for early prescription refills.
- Find more information on OIR's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

- The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has instituted additional screening measures for essential personnel and vendors within juvenile facilities.
- Find more information on DJJ's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is coordinating with the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association to test law enforcement exposed to mass gatherings for COVID-19.
- FDLE is working with DBPR on the process for enforcing the 50% seating capacity limit for the re-opening of bars and entertainment businesses, as well as establishing DBPR points of contacts for fielding complaints about violations.
- FDLE continues to provide support to FHP at the I-95 checkpoint.
- FDLE is disseminating information on the hiring of former first responders to assist Florida Division of Emergency Management field operations.
- FDLE is working with the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association on traffic assistance at testing/collection sites statewide.
- FDLE continues to work with the Florida Police Chiefs Association and the Florida Sheriffs Association to monitor law enforcement staffing impacts and staffing needs due to COVID-19.
- FDLE and FHP continue to facilitate the escort of testing collection kits statewide.

- FDLE continues to work with ESF-16 partners on airport screening missions.
- Find more information on FDLE's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA LOTTERY**

- Effective March 23, Florida Lottery Headquarters and district offices are closed to the public until further notice.
- Find more information on the Florida Lottery's COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

- The Department of Management Services (DMS) launched a [dedicated telework page](#) with resources and tutorials for employees and employers operating in a remote work environment.
- At the Governor's direction, DMS Secretary Jonathan Satter issued an emergency order to ensure federal benefits granted through The Families First Coronavirus Response Act are available to employees.
- As directed in [Executive Order 20-52](#), DMS has amended the state employee health plan benefits plan documents to expand covered telehealth benefits at no additional employee cost.
- Also directed in [Executive Order 20-52](#), DMS has amended the state employee health plan benefits plan documents to cover immunizations at participating in-network retail pharmacies at no cost to the member during this public health emergency.
- Find more information on DMS' COVID-19 response [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**

- Approximately 2,215 Florida National Guardsmen (FLNG) are mobilized to support Florida's response to COVID-19.
- FLNG has expanded its support to mobile testing teams and the community-based and walk-up test sites. To date, the FLNG has assisted in the testing of more than 361,608 individuals for the COVID-19 virus.
- FLNG continues to support the state's COVID-19 response through augmentation to airport screening measures, statewide logistics support, coordination, planning and operational mission sets.
- Find more information on DMA's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) has received 8 pallets of cloth masks from the State Emergency Operations Center. A pallet of 22,500 masks was sent to the six APD regional offices and to APD Headquarters. The masks will be distributed to APD employees, group homes and other providers to protect APD customers.
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) sent out a Guidance Booklet to Providers and Waiver Support Coordinators recently to outline waiver changes and flexibilities as a

result of COVID-19. It also included information on infection control measures and recommended actions when faced with various scenarios.

- APD issued [Emergency Order 20-03](#), which temporarily suspends face to face visits to administer the Questionnaire for Situational Information to determine the level of need of APD customers.
- Find more information on APD's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

- The Department of Revenue (DOR) has issued an [emergency order](#) extending certain corporate income tax (CIT) due dates. For corporations with a fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2019, the due date for Florida CIT payments is extended to June 1, 2020. For corporations with fiscal years ending Dec. 31, 2019, Jan. 31, 2020, or Feb. 29, 2020, the due date for Florida CIT returns is extended to August 3, 2020. The due dates for Florida CIT payments for corporations with fiscal years ending Jan. 31 or Feb. 29, 2020, remain June 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020, respectively.
- DOR has created a [dedicated webpage](#) for child support customers who have questions about the child support offset for Economic Impact Payments under the CARES Act. Under federal law, these payments are subject to federal offset for persons who owe past-due support.
- DOR has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage for [tax-related questions and information](#).
- The department also has a dedicated COVID-19 webpage for [child support customers](#) and alternative options for handling many child support case activities without visiting an office.
- Find more information on DOR's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## CAREERSOURCE FLORIDA

- The CareerSource Florida network is offering in-person appointments to assist job seekers and businesses with employment needs, especially those dealing with impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the exception of career centers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.
  - CareerSource South Florida is offering services virtually and over the phone, with plans to provide in-person appointments as soon as possible, pending receipt of personal protective equipment and completion of safety protocol training to protect customers and employees.
- The CareerSource Florida network has continued to provide employment and business services virtually, via telephone, by email and by appointment in some locations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since March 1, CareerSource Florida has assisted the following individuals:
  - More than 339,000 job seekers served
  - More than 15,150 job seekers placed in employment
  - More than 1,465 job seekers enrolled in training
  - More than 19,600 businesses served
  - More than 59,730 new jobs posted
- The state workforce board and all 24 local workforce development boards are assisting with CONNECT PIN resets and processing Reemployment Assistance applications.

- CareerSource Florida has launched an integrated public and business outreach campaign, [Help is Here](#), a comprehensive resource for employment and business services.
- For a list of Florida's local workforce development boards and their contact information, please [click here](#).

## STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

- The State University System has directed all 12 state universities to develop alternate plans for summer commencement ceremonies, which include any rescheduled spring commencement plans that may have been postponed to summer.
- The State University System Task Force has issued guidelines for reopening university campuses in the fall. Universities will present their individual plans based on these guidelines to the Board of Governors on June 23, 2020.
- Find more information on SUS' response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-97, delaying elections in Pasco County at the request of Pasco County Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley.
- Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee announced the issuance of an [emergency order and emergency rules](#) to extend annual report filing deadlines for business entities, as well as outline changes to the candidate petition and candidate qualifying processes.
- Find more information on the Florida Department of State's Response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- In accordance with Phase 2 of Governor Ron DeSantis' Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) deactivated the checkpoint for screening travelers seeking to enter Florida on I-10 at the Florida/Alabama state line. Upon deactivation, nearly 28,000 traveler forms had been collected at the I-10 checkpoint.
- FDOT continues to lead the coordination of DOH and the Florida Highway Patrol to implement Executive Order 20-86 at the I-95 checkpoint. To date, more than 34,300 traveler forms have been collected at the I-95 checkpoint.
- Governor DeSantis and FDOT Secretary Thibault announced the opening of five new Interstate 4 (I-4)/State Road (S.R.) 408 flyover ramps. This work was completed more than three months ahead of schedule and increases safety and mobility in the heart of Florida.
- Due to continued lower traffic volumes as a result of COVID-19, FDOT expedited more than 40 additional critical transportation projects by at least 650 total contract days, while also providing essential jobs to Floridians. Find more information about FDOT's accelerated projects [here](#).
- FDOT Secretary Thibault and staff joined the Florida Trucking Association and the Florida Highway Patrol to hand out 500 meals to Florida's truck drivers.
- FDOT continues to coordinate with public use airports, DOH and law enforcement to implement Executive Order 20-80. To date, more than 84,800 traveler forms have been collected at public use airports across the state.

- FDOT continues to coordinate with seaports across the state to monitor port activity.
- Find more information on FDOT's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has resumed committal services in Florida's VA National Cemeteries. To make burial arrangements, contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117.
- The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) has restricted visitor access to its state veterans' homes until further notice, with the exception of essential visitors. In addition, admissions in our network of state veterans' homes are temporarily suspended.
- Veterans who are concerned they may have symptoms of COVID-19, flu or cold should call the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center toll free at (877) 741-3400 before coming to a VA facility. Clinicians are available to provide 24/7 virtual care and support, including nurse advice and triage.
- To contact a teleworking FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 or email [VSO@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:VSO@fdva.state.fl.us).
- Find more information on FDVA's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

- The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) continues to be in close communication with the Governor's Office, the Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the most recent COVID-19 status and guidance.
- Find more information on FWC's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION**

- The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) issued an Emergency Rule to property owners and managers to suspend rent increases during this public health emergency on properties funded by Florida Housing. Those who choose to implement rent increases that impact residents during this global pandemic could result in consequences for future funding opportunities with Florida Housing.
- As Florida Housing continues to be committed to the health and well-being of all Floridians, we have compiled a list of resources with relevant information for homeowners, residents, developers, apartment owners, management companies, participating lenders, Realtors and SHIP administrators regarding COVID-19.
- Find more information on Florida Housing's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **VISIT FLORIDA**

- VISIT FLORIDA's four welcome centers are closed until further notice. VISIT FLORIDA welcome center staff members have been trained to provide customer service support for the Department of Economic Opportunity and are assisting with the influx of inquiries and calls from impacted businesses and workers throughout the state.

- Find more information on VISIT FLORIDA's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

## **VOLUNTEER FLORIDA**

- Volunteer Florida announced the availability of \$300,000 in AmeriCorps Planning Grants to support organizations interested in implementing an AmeriCorps program that addresses a critical community need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations interested in applying for this planning grant should respond to the [notice of funding](#) by Thursday, June 18 at 5 pm (ET).
- As the lead agency for volunteerism and service, Volunteer Florida is working to support voluntary organizations across the state and nation by sharing resources, surveying needs and requesting that continuity of operations plans be created to avoid any service delivery disruption.
- Find more information on Volunteer Florida's response to COVID-19 [here](#).

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