



The Governor held his daily Press Conference via Facebook Live today, March 28, 2020, in it he shared:

### **Governor's Remarks**

- The Governor began his remarks thanking the nurses, medical professionals, truck drivers, volunteers, grocery stores workers, warehouse operators and others for what they're doing.
- The State will be sending out a text message to all Floridians that re-iterates the Surgeon General's Advisory highlighting the importance of those over 65 and those immune compromised to stay at home.
- He highlighted the importance of good hygiene.
- While we have focused on testing so much, once we diagnose, we need a cure.
- Understanding the Governor is not a doctor, he believes in the right to try Hydroxychloroquine if the Doctor believes its important
  - Sending hydroxychloroquine to Miami-Dade and Broward through the Israeli Ambassador and Teva, an Israeli Pharmaceutical
- Cepheid developed a 45 minute rapid test, Director Moskowitz secured 2000 of the 10,000 the company produced so they are being deployed to Broward and Dade
- The FDA approved Abbott Labs' 5-15 minute test last night
- Florida has reached out to the President for Florida to pay for its own way, but to be able to get the test results so quickly would be crucial
- We are still focusing on ramping up testing capacity
  - The focus of the Villages testing operation was yes for testing, but moreso to test prevalence within those who are asymptomatic
  - The good news is that no one has tested positive who is asymptomatic
  - This does not allow us to take our eye off the ball, but UF has stepped up
- Travel update:
  - 14 day self quarantine since the Governor can't restrict flights. They are screened and required isolation. Someone who flew into Jacksonville from New York was symptomatic and had previously tested positive so the Guard took him to a hospital.
  - Understanding the hot zone exists in New Orleans, we do now have a checkpoint on I-10 as people enter the panhandle. We will also do one from I-95 to monitor people from New York
  - The President mentioned the possibility of doing a quarantine around the New York City area.
- Floridians, particularly South Florida who are locking down, shuttering businesses and limiting outlets its not fair to "airdrop" people from these hot zones into our community.
- Since we have instituted our policy's we have a decline in the number of people who come
- **Directing DEO to make available \$100 million to local governments for the "Re-Build Florida" program which has unspent Hurricane Irma**
  - **Putting this into infrastructure will be good for the economy**
  - **Information on how to apply will be available this week**
- Have done over 40,000 tests statewide
- Broward 39% bed availability, 33% statewide



### **Reporter Questions**

- What are the plans to address the airports around the state to monitor New Yorkers entering?
  - We're in the large airports, but smaller airports need to help people of Florida as well, hope they can help us screen. We need airlines and airports to help us out to help us deal with the spread.
- Do you think a domestic air travel ban is on the table?
  - They have not said that, and I don't think it's a good idea to cut off flights in, but certainly flights out since they are such hot zones. We have to do everything to try to flatten the curve and pausing
- What's the plan for I-95 checkpoint?
  - Will work like I-10. The concern about back-up is being addressed by allowing commercial traffic travel through. While we are looking at other roads, this is the main route for New Yorkers coming into the state.
- Regret not issuing a state order to close beaches during spring break?
  - What the Governor did was order social distancing. He still believes that it is about the residents and the family of four who is getting sunshine and humidity is not what we are concerned about. It's becoming such a political issue, what's causing more of an issue the beaches or subways that people are packed in like sardines?
- Two Broward poll workers testing positive, do you regret moving forward with primary?
  - No, safety was priority in working with the Supervisors and the Secretary. Having canceled would have sent unnecessary panic through state.
- What is the plan to increase testing in non-hotspots?
  - We have sent swabs to almost all if not all county health departments. Our field-testing sites are open to anyone, but individuals can still seek a test in their own community. Just like this hasn't impacted the country uniformly just like we have seen in Florida. That's why the Governor did a tailored approach. What we're seeing around the country is the major metropolitan areas being.
- Do you have plans to test in Sun City?
  - If USF or one of the hospitals would be interested in supporting and offering assistance, we would certainly look into it.