

# TSE

CONSULTING

Governor Ron DeSantis held a press conference at Dolphin Pointe, a long-term care facility in Jacksonville.

## **Governor Ron DeSantis**

- Anti-bodies Test
  - Doing 100 anti-bodies test per day for healthcare workers and first responders in Jacksonville at the Jaguars stadium similar to Miami
- Long-Term Care – Dolphin Pointe
  - Very early knew this would disproportionately impact the elderly
  - Put forth huge amounts of time efforts and resources to protect LTCs
    - All staff required to be screened
    - DEM sent almost 10 million masks, 1 million gloves and half a million face shields just to LTCs
    - 50 four-member teams of National Guardsmen to do testing just at facilities
  - Outfitted RV with lab
    - 45 minute test results, taking to different facilities around the state
    - 3500 tests a week just at rapid mobile lab
  - Some long-term facilities have capacity to treat on-site with negative pressure rooms and other equipment, but most don't
    - Early on, hospitals were directed not to send patients back to LTCs
    - What Dolphin Pointe did was created a secure environment to effectively isolate Covid-positive patients to alleviate outbreaks
      - Currently have 17 patients, expecting seven more in the coming days
      - This is providing a step-down from hospitals and a step-up from LTCs to isolate spread
  - Great protocols on required testing before returning of patients to LTCs
    - Hospitals understand an outbreak at an LTC would be the worst case scenario if there was an influx of patients
- Statewide data in last three weeks
  - Patients in ICU decreased by 60%
  - Patients on ventilators down 47%

## **Agency for Healthcare Administration Secretary Mary Mayhew**

- Governor set the standard of taking this incredibly seriously with a laser focus on our elderly and most vulnerable
- Dolphin Pointe
  - This facility is so important for our state's response for this facility to say we will become a Covid designated facility

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- This will prevent two cases from becoming fifty
- This is a model we will build on around the state

### **Dolphin Pointe Owner**

- Thrilled to have our partnership with Jacksonville University to help staff our nurses
- Without the leadership of the Governor and Secretary this doesn't happen
- One patient told our staff that they appreciated being treated like human beings
- Important to remember these are decent human beings not just numbers

### **Governor DeSantis**

- Thrilled about anti-bodies roll-out
  - Partnering with research institutions to determine true community spread with the anti-bodies test
  - Doing one in Broward, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville next following the successful university partnership in Miami

### **Press Questions**

- Unemployment
  - DEO has paid out \$1.1 billion to half a million individuals. Obviously, the system was problematic, and we are still working on it. In terms of the investigation, we hope to get some answers on what went into this inadequate system. Here in Florida we want to get people the cash, but we also want to lay the foundation to get people working again.
- Business Loans
  - While PPP is better than some of the state programs, it is important to get money into the hands of mom and pop businesses. It was wrong that large businesses got the money. Encourage multi-national businesses in Florida to give it back to get it to small businesses.
- Long-Term Care Facilities
  - Restricting visitation was difficult, but we needed to do it for a health perspective. We know there is also a need for contact for these residents. I have asked Secretary Mayhew to look at ways to make this happen, maybe rapid tests at these facilities. Have to think about developing Covid wings.
- Re-Opening
  - Need to think about ways to re-open facilities in Phase Two including hair salons. Will likely hear something from me on that real soon.

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Governor Ron DeSantis held his afternoon press conference at the drive-thru testing site in West Palm Beach.

## **Governor Ron DeSantis**

- Flattening the Curve
  - Our efforts have worked
  - Hospitalizations, positivity and ICU admissions are down
- Testing Centers
  - Understanding a negative test does not mean you won't get it tomorrow.
  - Encourage all first responders and anyone who else may be exposed to come get the test
  - Anti-bodies test
    - Drive-thru anti-bodies testing for first responders and healthcare workers
    - Planning to do 100 per day
    - Had the first 200,000 anti-bodies test delivered this week
      - FDA approved test that distinguishes between other coronaviruses and Covid-19
- Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step
  - Florida, as a state, satisfied gating requirements as indicators
    - Palm Beach is under 10% positivity
    - Have enough hospital space
  - Recognized the tri-county area was hit harder so we wanted to make sure they were able to proceed in ways appropriate for them
  - Received the letter from Mayor Kerner requesting that they go into Phase One
- Overarching strategy
  - Key points remain the same
    - Always stick to the plan of protecting vulnerable testing
    - Promoting social distancing
    - Supporting hospitals and healthcare workers
    - Preventing introduction of virus from outside the state
      - Submitting plan to the President for international flights
      - Screened between 40-50,000 people coming from hotspots
  - Phase one was only a small step admittedly
    - Continue distance learning
    - Continued to prevent visitations
    - Monitoring PPE and hospital capacity
      - Especially as we allow elective surgeries
    - Outdoor seating and 25% indoor capacity at restaurants
    - Encouraging retail but at a social distance

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- **Monday, I will authorize Palm Beach County to move into Phase one.**
  - Long-term care facilities and hospitals are ready
  - In order for Florida to come back, we need Palm Beach to be up and running

## Secretary Mary Mayhew

- Created a strong foundation in Florida that allows us to move forward
  - So proud of our hospitals for collaboration and engagement with long-term care facilities
- Important to have the level of hospitalization to be available for facilities as soon as they identify positive patients
- Early identification and isolation is key

## Palm Beach County Mayor Dave Kerner

- Palm Beach Commission currently taking public comment on the best way to spend the CARES money we received
- 67 ICU patients, 39 patients on ventilators, while each one is tragic, it is important to put in perspective of the 1.5 million, we have seen success
- Thank you for granting our request for re-opening Monday
- The governor has empowered local governments to succeed
- Board of County Commission authorized a return to limited recreation
- Our community will lead the way in South Florida as we adapt to the new normal
- Palm Beach County voted to open public beaches on May 18<sup>th</sup> at which point we will consistently communicate to ensure we are in compliance with social distancing

## Press Questions

- Unemployment
  - DEO has paid out \$1.1 billion to half a million individuals in last six weeks. Not taking resources away from re-employment, but focusing on getting people back to work.
- Broward/Dade
  - Both of those counties indicated they weren't ready yet and that's okay, but they should be soon. **Target for them to go into Phase One is the 18<sup>th</sup>**, obviously depending on where the numbers are. Broward is now 9%. We need these two counties to be vibrant as economic engines for the state. I am not pushing them, but we have to work together with folks on the local level.
- Reason for going to Phase One
  - Palm Beach was definitely a tick above Orange and others, but I don't think it was too delayed in anyway. The other parts of the state were ready for Phase One, while I thought Palm Beach was ready, they wanted to wait so I agreed.

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## **Broward Health COVID-19 roundtable with the Non-profit Executive Alliance of Broward**

Broward Health held a roundtable discussion on COVID-19 with the Non-profit Executive Alliance of Broward, as a focus on the partnerships that make up the “safety-net” of Broward County. The hospital provided updates on steps it has been taking to ensure access to care, testing, employee treatment, supply chain coordination, and re-opening guidance. They also shared data trends and their view of the developments in treatments.

CEO Gino Santorio shared Broward Health’s efforts to ensure access to care through three main focuses: Testing, Telehealth, and ensuring non-COVID related patients are seeking the care they need from the hospital.

### 1. Testing:

- BH has two drive-up sites, in Pompano and Central Broward Park.
- BH has a nurse connect hotline that has fielded more than 8,000 calls to provide people with required scripts to be tested.
- BH currently has two antigen testing platforms, a “rapid” test and a 45 min test, and anticipate an additional 45 min platform in the coming weeks (bringing it to 3)
- BH is not yet performing antibodies testing. They are waiting until more information is discovered and a quantitative test is available (as the current tests are only qualitative in nature and can lead to false positives if a non COVID19 virus is detected.) Further, they cautioned that current information shows that antibodies may leave the bloodstream after 45 days.

### 2. Telehealth:

- BH is providing telehealth services for people with no physician or a physician in the Broward Health system
- COVID related telehealth visits are provided for free

### 3. Non Covid-related patients:

- Unfortunately, there have been cases of people not seeking emergency help when experiencing signs of a stroke or heart attack, which resulted in fatalities.
- BH launched a marketing campaign to reach members of the public to ensure they know it is safe to come to the hospital and seek care they need.
- BH has a segregated unit for COVID patients and uses rapid testing to quickly identify patients who need to be segregated.
- BH re-opened elective surgeries on May 4th. They require a negative COVID test prior to the surgery, require all personnel to wear masks, and are using an electrostatic spray (which immediately kills the virus) to disinfect all high-touch areas.



Longterm care facilities: BH is taking a leadership role in longterm care facilities and nursing homes. This includes collecting and sharing data, data trends, and a predictive algorithm they created with the state.

#### Employees:

- No employees were let go.
- Executive staff took a 20% pay cut to create an employee fund for employee spouses who have been laid off.
- BH created a Paid Leave bank of 160 hours that employees may borrow from
- Publix partnership grants extended hours for BH employees
- They've also provided pop-up convenience stores for essential items, child care, and have had a significant outpouring of meals, PPE, etc. from the community
- They are granting rate abatement for physicians who are tenants at their facilities and are holding them harmless on performance requirements.

#### Current data:

- Broward County has 5,688 cases, 248 deaths, and 1148 hospitalizations
- They shared the curve has flattened and they never experienced a surge.
- They also shared that the doubling rate of cases is more important than a rising number of cases as it shows how fast the virus is spreading through the community. In March, the rate was doubling every three days. Currently, the doubling rate is at 45 days.

#### Treatments:

- Treatments are "all over the map" as no one is really sure what works and no FDA approved treatments
- There are no fully FDA approved treatments or vaccines as COVID19 is only 6 months old.
- There are 2 buckets of treatments: repurposed FDA approved drugs that are used "off label" (hydroxychloroquine) and experimental treatments (convalescent plasma/ Remdesivir).
- There are Phase 3 experiments taking place on vaccines now

#### On questions of reopening:

- They shared that they have been providing guidance on CDC compliance of re-opening plans.
- It is a matter of "Timing, Diligence, and Practice" - Practice, meaning how to ensure consistency in implementing requirements such as temperature checks of restaurant employees.

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- 16 days of downward trend means we have passed the requirement to move into initial Phase
- Gating procedures are key to ensuring there is not a second wave
- Social Distancing is key for workplace safety as well as PPE

On questions of testing asymptomatic, particularly children in group homes:

- The state is prioritizing hotspots currently
- 4 DOH strike force teams with ICP, Epidemiologists, and nurses/physicians
- Strike-force teams are testing in-house staff
- BH considers when a patient is being transferred to a facility
- Holiday Park is offering asymptomatic testing and currently has a lot of capacity
- Testing is limited and only captures that someone currently has or was recently infected
- Gino agreed that the current priority on hotspots should change to ensuring all residential facilities are safe.

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-114

(Emergency Management – Extension of Executive Order 20-52 – COVID-19)

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-51, directing the Florida Department of Health to issue a Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the entire state due to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved my request and declared a Major Disaster due to COVID-19 in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2020, after consulting with my Task Force to Re-Open Florida, I issued Executive Order 20-112, my “Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery”; and

**WHEREAS**, I, as Governor of Florida, am committed to providing all available resources and assisting all Floridians and our local communities with their efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, no state of emergency declared pursuant to the Florida Emergency Management Act may continue for more than 60 days unless renewed by the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of COVID-19 poses a continuing threat to the health, safety and welfare of the State of Florida and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS**, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:



Section 1. The state of emergency declared in Executive Order 20-52, will be extended for 60 days following the issuance of this order for the entire State of Florida.

Section 2. To the extent Executive Order 20-112, Phase 1: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery, amended or extended any executive order related to COVID-19, the referenced executive orders shall remain in effect, as modified.

Section 3. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified, and he is directed to continue to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency.

Section 4. Except as amended herein, Executive Order 20-52 is ratified and reaffirmed.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 8th day of May, 2020.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Desantis".

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurel M. Bee".  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2020 MAY - 8 AM 8:56

FILED