



Governor's Press Conference 4/18/2020

Thanks medical community and Florida National Guard

FL National Guard has been a force multiplier for the state, esp with testing with drive thru sites and spot testing in nursing homes

Testing: Today we will cross 250,000 test results 1 per 88 ppl with a higher ratio in Southeastern counties. We just received 31,443 test results in the last 2 days that yielded 20,332 resident cases. Lowest 2-day percent positive. Palm Beach County also percent positive trending down.

- Expanding strike teams to test in nursing homes
- Launched 2 new testing sites in Broward County to reach broader segment of society. Going to try to replicate this model.
- Testing will continue to be an issue. We are working on relationships with labs that can do high throughput testing that will help us to turn around more tests more quickly, While we have some rapid tests through hospitals, this will get thousands and thousands of tests turned around. 5,000 to 10,000 turned around in 24 hours.
- Not everyone will get tested. As Dr. Fauci said, someone may test negative and then contract it the next day.
- Agreements with labs will be in place soon. AG Moody and Director Moskowitz are working on it.

Stanford Study: One of the most important studies was released this week from Stanford. Between 50 to 80 times more people showed antibodies than had tested positive in Santa Clary County. We are working on getting antibodies test kits because it is important to know if more people have it than have tested positive.

K-12 Schools will continue with distance learning for duration of the school year. Mixed opinions. Distance learning is not ideal but given where we are in the school year we've decided to continue.

Task Force for Florida's Rebound and Resurgence- We will announce task force members on monday. 3 stage approach: Short-Term, Medium-Term, Long-Term for recommendations on how to reopen the state. Will have first meeting monday via phone, meet every day next week and have recommendations on short-term to me by the end of the week. Had a lot of great irons in the fire before this hit and we want to be able to carry those forward

Nursing Homes:

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Our number one emphasis has been on long term care and nursing homes
We temperature check all employees, barred visitors, expanded spot tests, required PPE

Hospital systems, like Cleveland Clinic, have helped expand spot tests. We want all health care providers to as we look to open up elective procedures.

- For Elective Procedures: We want hospitals to show they have: enough capacity, enough PPE, a plan in place, and will continue to work with nursing homes and then we can possibly look into allowing elective surgeries

I think more information is better. We've decided to release the names of all the facilities where someone has tested positive. At every facility, all families and staff were required to be notified immediately after one person tested positive at any facility. However, if staff does not follow up on this then they weren't notified, so have directed Surgeon General to to release those names.

Screening: 22,000 people entering from hotspots like New York and New Orleans have been screened and required to self-solate. This has helped us keep a steady, good hospital capacity statewide. It helped keep numbers lower, flatten the curve, and prevent infections spiking.

Text FLCOVID19 to 888777

Q&A

How did you arrive at the decision on K12 Schools?

We consulted with everyone, we looked at the calendar. Sensitive to fact that kids are away from others but it could have caused division, especially amongst parents. Some could keep kids home from school, some teachers may not want to go in.
Florida is a leader in distance learning.

Texted number but haven't gotten anything

Stay tuned. We want to be respectful and not overwhelm with messages but will be releasing messages to keep people informed

Can you speak more about the lab relationships to produce quicker results?

First, Labcorps and Quest were the only ones and then other labs - however, they got backed up with everyone sending their samples there.

- There was greater lab capacity out there but no incentive at only \$50 per test so Federal government raised Medicaid reimbursement to \$100 per test. Which increased number of labs willing to do them.

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- We are working with labs in Gainesville and Texas. Asking how many can you do, how quickly can you get them back, if we submit samples at this time when will we receive results.
- We are also looking at equipping State Labs to do high throughput testing which is expensive on the front end but saves money on the back end. If you pay for a machine vs. paying per test. State labs can do 100-200 per day but not set up to do high thru-put. Looking at establishing an additional state lab as well

Risk of NASA launches with people congregating?

They can do it without congregating. NASA's mission is important to the economy and the Space Coast is actually doing relatively well despite huge shock to the economy. Most people have been respectful of the expectations to not gather.

More info on Task Force?

Will meet every day next week. Have a lot they must consider:

- Agriculture
- Another group led by Florida Blue will look at how to leverage private sector participation to ramp up capacity and production of quicker tests
- Theme Parks, tourism, airlines, cruise ships
- Cruises want to start up again in June, how can face this
- Restaurants

We have to be smart about a number of things

How many members? Who is on it?

Will announce on Monday. Tried to get small business, elected officials throughout the state, Speaker Designate Sprowls and Senate President Simpson, asked all county mayors in Southeast to be part of it. We want people who are seeing this from the ground up not from Tallahassee

When we will have names of facilities?

- I've directed him to do it so hopefully he will get them to you as soon as possible. The facility is still required to notify families and notify staff.
- Stanford study of people who had it, so fatalities may be lower but not in nursing homes
- We came out early on this and CDC recommended our model to other states. In FL between 90-100 were connected to these facilities. Other states have hundreds and hundreds, NY had 1000s
- Whatever measures end up getting relaxed and whatever phase in opening up we will continue our efforts in nursing homes.