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## Press Conference on COVID-19 (from Miami Gardens, 5/6/2020)

- Over the last two days, the rate positive was 2.6%, yesterday alone was 3% (compared to national average of 15%)
- Number of people on ventilators: 294, Miami: 84, over 6,300 ventilators in the state not being used.
- Florida has administered nearly 500,000 tests, Miami 100,000, most of any county
- In Hard Rock Stadium, they are adding serological testing to test for antibodies, will add to other testing sites soon.
  - This is very important because the antibodies don't go away, and will confirm a certain level of immunity
  - It's an FDA approved test, they have 200,000 available and more on the way
  - It's a blood tests, results in 10-15 minutes
  - Healthcare workers and first responders first, will expand soon.
  - They have reached out to all the hospital systems to test their workers as well without them having to come to the testing site
  - Locations will be added in Orange County and Jacksonville at drive-thru sites, adding an antibody lane
- Florida DOH has been working with OneBlood, will analyze recent donation samples to check antibodies and get a snapshot of how widespread immunity is in the community.
- Mobile testing lab with rapid testing, results available within 45 minutes. Only COVID-19 testing, not antibodies
  - Run by StatLab, 500 tests a day
  - National Guard still doing lots of testing in long-term care facilities, but it takes 24-48 hours for results
  - The mobile lab can quickly identify clusters in these facilities
  - 10 members of the National Guard, 10 contracted nurses working on the mobile lab
  - Mobile lab will start with long-term care facilities in Miami-Dade.
- 12 drive-thru testing sites in Florida, 10 walk-up community sites, especially in underserved communities
  - Hard Rock Stadium has done over 20,000 tests
  - National Guard in long-term care facilities: it's a pretty low percentage of COVID. Only about 4% positive
  - CVS and Walmart are now allowed to administer COVID tests, Walgreens will set up 7 drive-thru sites, 2 in Miami
- At Hard Rock Stadium, they've based the critical care decontamination system to clean the PPE
  - They can decontaminate 80,000 masks a day, can decontaminate the same mask 20 times (N-95 masks)

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- This is important in case anything happens with the supply chain
- DeSantis is encouraging pharmaceutical companies to come manufacture in Florida instead of China
- The state has supplied more than 10 million masks, 1 million gloves just to long-term care facilities
  - FEMA has now started doing a similar aggressive approach nationwide, Florida will still be included
- The state has screened 40,000 people coming from New Orleans and NYC in order to prevent the spread because these are hotspots
- In Miami, with all of the international travel that goes through there, they are working on a plan to test people coming from areas with outbreaks internationally.
- 14 day moving average: consistent decline in positivity rates and new cases, even with an increase in number of tests
  - Miami has seen a good trend of decline, still a long way to go
- Jeannette Nunez, Lt. Governor:
  - We are fast approaching almost half a million tests in Florida.
  - They are focusing on more than just one kind of testing.
  - The governor has taken on a multi-faceted approach, the most significant response effort in the state's history
  - Florida is in the top 3 for testing, has led the way with helping the elderly by prohibiting visitors, screening personnel, getting PPE
  - Florida has led the way in screening people coming from other states.
- Jared Moskowitz, Division of Emergency Management
  - Since the last time they were here, the lines are different. Capacity to test is based on lab space
  - As they continue to test more people, less people are coming to test
  - Hard Rock has been the number one site in the state
  - The mobile lab is a way to test differently, can be an emergency system by bringing the lab to the situation
  - Looking at home testing, examining all sorts of ways to make tests easier and bring tests to the patients
  - 25 million masks for the state in total, 1 million to the department of corrections
  - Another site will open in Miami Beach as both a drive-thru and walk-up site.
  - As we get into hurricane season, they are continuing to look at the plans and redevelop them with COVID-19, especially with evacuations. "Know Your Home, Know Your Zone." Potential for non-congregate sheltering in hotels.
  - As far as PPE with hurricane season, they are creating reserves. 10 million masks in reserves, signed a long-term deal with Honeywell for 12 million N-95 masks
- Carlos Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County
  - Is grateful for the mobile lab and decontamination, agrees with the governor about testing for international flights to prevent the spread in Florida

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- Less than 100 people on respirators, thousands of hospital beds opens, hundreds of ICU beds available.
- Formulating plans to open up the county in Miami-Dade, will work with the governor. They need to open up and get to a new normal.
- Dr. Scott Rivkees, Surgeon General of Florida
  - There are 5 major pillars of the COVID-19 response, testing being one. Is happy to see more sophisticated testing systems debuting (the mobile lab)
  - The antibody test measures two antibodies: IGM and IGG. IGM appears first, within a week of infection, IGG appears about two weeks after infection.
  - They will also randomly be testing blood samples from OneBlood to get a snapshot of immunity
  - Contact-tracing is also very important to stop the cycle of transmission from person to person
  - These efforts are all adding to the fight against COVID-19
- The Governor on Phase 1
  - Following the White House's guidelines on reopening, they have reopened the state
  - The state as a whole, even with Broward, Palm Beach, and Miami-Dade, met the requirements.
  - These counties want to see how things go with reopening recreation; these counties are working on plans for reopening
  - Broward and Palm Beach are around 10% positivity, it's getting lower.
  - For Florida to be successful, they need the South Florida communities to be successful
  - The other 64 counties are in really good shape.
  - The first phase is not really different from what's already been going on. It's just a little more retail that is open and restaurants at a low capacity
  - It's really good that elective surgery is now available again, even in Miami-Dade.

### Questions:

- Regarding unemployment: they're dealing with problems that were occurring before he was governor. They've processed over 400,000-500,000 payments just this past weekend. A lot of the issues are missing or conflicting information, which have to be taken care of before the claim can be paid.
- Regarding reopening Florida: we need to get rid of the idea that some jobs are essential, and some jobs are not. Your work is essential to being able to support yourself and others. They are looking to reduce risk for reopening businesses (ex: hair salons and barbershops). "We have a responsibility to get to yes. We can't just say no." If someone can conduct business with low risk, they want to make it possible for people to do so. DeSantis asked if there were outbreaks related to hair salons, because they were open throughout March.

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- Mayor Gimenez: Miami-Dade police is doing 1,000 inspections a day and found a high number of compliances with restrictions. They are doing things as quickly as they can, but safety first. If people are saying they are opening up with a date, there is no date. They're not trying to keep things closed, but they need to be able to keep it at low risk.
- DeSantis: some of the people who are the most against reopening seem to have very good haircuts right now.
- Regarding the three southern counties: they don't want to hold counties back going forward if one has an outbreak and another doesn't. They've been following trends but going forward they are going to work with these counties more individually with Phase 1. They've been working closely with the counties, and each county is so diverse. Outside of the three counties, when there's an increase in cases it's due to a testing backlog, cases in prisons, or nursing homes. It's not do nothing or lock everyone in their homes forever. In Florida there have been no fatalities under 25, the most vulnerable are the elderly. They are following the data and tailoring the response to that.