

COVID -19 INSIDER REPORT



Subscribe Here
For Insider Updates



"Maybe we should announce a bailout of the airlines and then keep delaying it until finally we cancel and give them hotel vouchers."

**- Ryan Calo
via Twitter**

Going Viral: Five Things You Need To Know

1. **Heard Rumor; Herd Immunity.** Today we picked up an interesting rumor that could be false but is intriguing nonetheless: Next week the Trump administration will limit its social distancing guidance to citizens over 65, and all others will be free to go about their business. At the core of this strategy is the concept of "herd immunity." That is, if a sufficient number of people have been infected and beaten the virus—scientists say it should be at least 60% of the population—then this large group of immune people acts as a buffer to slow down the transmission of the disease to the people who remain vulnerable. Theoretically, if you can have the disease first infect people who are least likely to need hospitalization (in the case of COVID-19 that's mostly young people), you can stagger the transmission of the disease through the general population so hospitals are never overwhelmed. The UK initially toyed with this

strategy but shifted to a lockdown on Monday amid a public backlash, but Sweden is running with a herd immunity strategy that imposes only minimal social distancing requirements. Johan Carlson, head of Sweden's public health agency, explained the tensions informing their national strategy, saying the country "cannot take draconian measures that have a limited impact on the epidemic but knock out the functions of society."

2. **Government Responses from Around the World and the Pattern**

They Reveal. Today Putin gave all Russians a mandatory vacation next week with pay and told all to stay home despite the fact that allegedly there has been only one COVID-19 death in that country. On Monday, Boris Johnson called for Britons to stay home for three weeks although there is little government enforcement of this directive. Prime Minister Modi today announced that India would be in lockdown for 21 days and offered little guidance as to how they were to get food during that period. On Monday, Australia began shutting down non-essential businesses after its citizens did not enthusiastically comply with social distancing suggestions. Italy has shut down non-essential businesses, banned all but essential travel within the country, forced people to shelter at home, and are enforcing the regulations with the police and military. The pattern we're seeing in many countries is one of escalation as the numbers of infected increase: Initial uncertainty about the severity of the threat, then permissive guidance for social distancing, then unenforced regulations for social distancing, and finally, deploying

law enforcement and the military to enforce social distancing.

- 3. Will Florida's Response Measure Up?** As the number of coronavirus cases in Florida surges toward 1,700, former Vice President and current Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is criticizing the way Governor DeSantis is handling the crisis, especially the Governor's resistance to issuing a stay-at-home order for the state. But Governor DeSantis is continuing his measured fight against the virus, including getting the state Logistics Response Center in Orlando up and running around-the-clock to aid mitigation efforts. The center, normally used for hurricane missions, is now a base of operations for fulfilling the state's more than 5,000 requests for medical supplies and equipment to aid the state's massive medical operations in the fight against the coronavirus. DeSantis has stopped short of issuing a statewide shelter-in-place order, calling that "a very blunt instrument" and "unnecessary," and instead is letting local governments decide whether to require residents to stay at home. He also is asking all Florida residents 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions to remain at home for the next 14 days. These orders are coupled with new strict requirements for airline passengers entering our state from New York and New Jersey, with NYC considered the current worldwide epicenter of the virus. It remains to be seen if Florida's varying statewide and local actions will stem the tide of new infections but agreement appears to be at hand among state and local officials that our neighbors to north should probably stay home for a few more weeks before coming to bask in

the warm weather of the Sunshine State.

4. **Is that Stimulus Check In the Mail Yet? Not Quite Say Scores of Congressional Members.** As of publication, the U.S. Senate is battling a series of objections to their recently announced \$2 trillion stimulus package. The plan, designed to inject much-needed funds into the U.S. economy, includes \$250 billion for direct payments to taxpayers, \$350 billion in small business loans, \$250 billion in unemployment insurance benefits, and \$500 billion in loans for distressed companies. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said the House could vote on the legislation as soon as Thursday, but New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is asking the House to make adjustments to the bill, which he claims would be terrible for his state. Meanwhile, Florida Representative Matt Gaetz has introduced legislation, the No CHINA (China Handouts in National Assistance) Act, to keep taxpayer dollars used in any COVID-19 funding package out of the hands of China's communist regime and away from any businesses owned by the Chinese government. How long could the haggling last? Too bad legislation isn't as easy to pass as COVID-19.

5. **Only in Florida...** Leave it to Florida to put our own unique spin on COVID-19 and the quarantines resulting from this unprecedented time. In effort to flatten the curve among Monroe County residents, local officials have essentially closed the Florida Keys to all tourists and visitors, allowing only residents, property owners and workers entry. Local sheriffs will be conducting traffic stops for anyone

attempting to enter the delightfully colorful Conch Republic. To further deter tourists, Monroe County has ordered all hotels and rentals to cease business with visitors leaving many a mainland Floridian to wonder... has the much talked about secession of the Florida Keys finally begun? Meanwhile, Miami-Dade County may be the first jurisdiction in the country to zero in on a potentially catastrophic issue for the management of COVID-19 releasing a 'Think Before You Flush' campaign. Designed to emphasize the importance of what is and is not allowed to find itself in sewage pipes due to the increase of individuals remaining at home, the county is working double time to make sure it's infrastructure remains up and operational so they can focus on bigger issues related to the pandemic. We're left to wonder what other firsts Miami-Dade may nab as they race to become the most aggressive locality in the country in fighting the COVID-19 virus.



Despite the uncertainty we find ourselves facing, there are some companies that are stepping up to lessen the economic impacts of COVID-19. At The Southern Group, we're honored to work alongside these amazing organizations. Take for instance **Anderson Columbia**, which announced this week their intention to hire anyone that is currently out of work due to COVID-19 for

temporary employment. Through an expedited hiring process they will bring employees on and employees, in turn, can return to their previous employment at anytime. To apply, visit Anderson Columbia in person at 2316 Highway 71 South in Marianna. To learn more about Anderson Columbia's work in Florida visit them on the [web](#).



FLORIDA HEADLINES

[Florida Headline News: Coronavirus Florida: Fear Drive 'Unprecedented'](#)
[Gun And Ammunition Sales](#)

[Florida Politics](#): **State Agencies Team up with FRLA to bring seniors meals**

[Action News Jax](#): **Jacksonville Car Wash Sanitizes Vehicles To Help Fight Coronavirus**

[Pensacola News Journal](#): **Jobless Claims Skyrocket In Florida As Businesses Close, Limit Service During Pandemic**

[Orlando Sentinel](#): **Florida Supreme Court extends suspension of jury trials statewide through April 17**

[The Ledger](#): **Coronavirus Florida: Publix, other grocers to hire thousands**

[Sun Sentinel](#): **Florida coronavirus updates: President declares 'major disaster' in the state**

[Tampa Bay Times](#): **Florida's newly unemployed get little help from troubled website**

THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[NPR](#): **Senate Reaches Historic Deal On \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Economic Rescue Package**

[CNN](#): **President Trump is as Popular as He's Ever Been Right Now**

[Fox News](#): **Cuomo: Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Bill Would be 'Terrible' for New York**

[Axios](#): **How the Coronavirus Stimulus Bill Helps You**

[CNN](#): **US on Track to Become Next Coronavirus Epicenter, but There's Time to Reverse Course, Health Official Says**

THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[BBC News](#): **Coronavirus: Prince Charles Tests Positive But 'Remains In Good Health'**

[Bloomberg](#): **Trudeau Wins Opposition Backing For \$57 Billion Virus Aid Package**

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- [Apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance - Are you eligible?](#)
- [Emergency Bridge Loan for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Business Damage Assessment Survey - Communicate Impacts of COVID-19](#)
- [Application Window Extended for Florida Disaster Grant Fund - Hurricanes Irma & Michael](#)

QUICK LINKS

Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Daily Reporting [continue](#) →

U.S. Centers for Disease Control COVID -19 Resources [continue](#) →

Preparing Your Business - CDC COVID-19 Guidance [continue](#) →

World Health Organization COVID-19 Resources [continue](#) →

PROTECTING YOURSELF & OTHERS

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) *(Florida Department of Health)*
 - [What Travelers Need to Know](#) *(Florida Department of Health)*
 - [Preparing Your Workplace](#) *(U.S. Department of Labor)*
 - [Fliers for Display and Instructional Materials](#) *(Florida Department of Health)*
-

If you have any questions or comments about this content, please contact your Southern Group lobbyist. For more information about our firm or our work, please visit [our website](#).



A connected
network of
influential experts
spanning the
Southeast

20 years

40+ lobbyists

9 markets

Influence creates opportunity. Let us show you how.