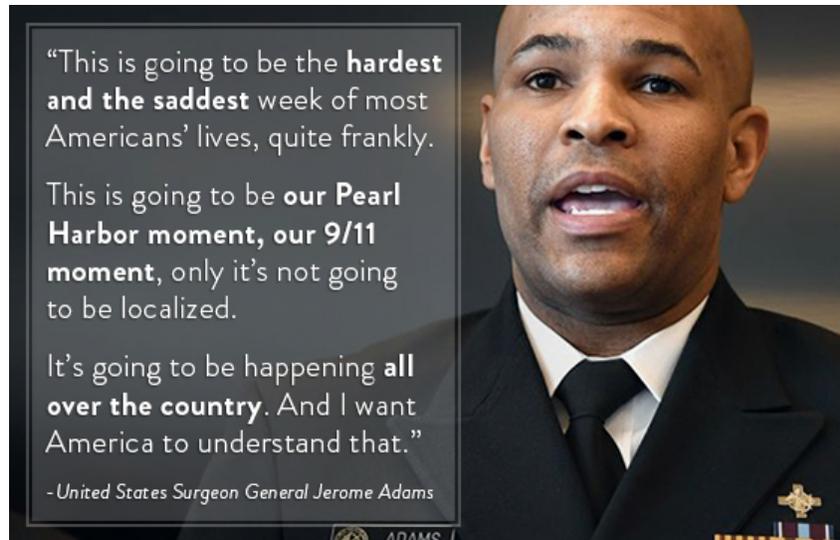


# COVID -19 INSIDER REPORT



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## Going Viral: Five Things You Need To Know

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1. **What You Missed This Weekend.** On the state level, total Florida cases as of Monday are 13,629 with 254 deaths: about a 2% death rate among confirmed cases. Currently deaths are doubling about every four days. Confirmed cases peaked on Friday with about 1,300 new cases and then declined on subsequent days. It’s impossible to say whether this heralds a trend from social distancing or is an anomaly. Woes continue to befall the recently unemployed as the state processing system struggles to keep pace with the tsunami of unemployment claims, and paper applications are now being accepted from laid-off workers. On the national level, New York remains the epicenter of the outbreak in this country with over 4,000 deaths and doubling every three days. Hospitals are overwhelmed,

and New York City government is currently planning to bury some of the dead in trenches in city parks. Nationwide deaths are approaching 10,000 and doubling every four days. Internationally, the number of deaths in Italy and Spain are declining but continue to remain high. China has re-opened some tourist attractions. In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was hospitalized as a result of his COVID-19 infection and today was moved to the ICU. Globally, today we'll exceed 1.3 million confirmed cases and 70,000 deaths.

2. **COVID-19 Idles a Quarter of Our Economy.** With 8 in 10 counties under lockdown orders, Moody's Analytics estimates that about 25% of the economy has gone idle in the past four weeks, and that number will grow for at least the next two months. By comparison, annual GDP output fell 26% over a four-year period between 1929 and 1933 in the Great Depression, and in the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 GDP fell only 4%. Moody's estimates the US will show a 30% GDP drop for Q2 this year; an unprecedented drop in GDP in an extremely compressed time period. A separate study shows that retail and real estate are primarily driving the bad numbers with up to 75% revenue reductions in those sectors.
  
3. **The Good News: New York Cases May be Declining.** New York announced Sunday that for the first time since beginning their battle against COVID-19 the state experienced a decrease of deaths and hospitalizations. The epicenter of the nation's most aggressive spread, the city's healthcare system has buckled under the pressure

of growing caseloads. Sunday, however, saw 594 deaths, down from 630 Saturday, and coupled with an increase in hospital discharges. Experts stress this performance must be repeated to convince them the Big Apple is truly turning a corner, but the news is a much-needed boost to the beleaguered city and its healthcare staff that are working around the clock.

4. **DeSantis Calls in Backups to Tackle Unemployment.** Governor DeSantis hosted an agency roundtable today to assure Floridians that last week's unemployment benefits fiasco is under control. Leadership of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Management Services have teamed up to fix the problems with DEO's website which incidentally prevented countless Floridians from filing for unemployment benefits successfully last week. Officials installed 72 new servers allowing the site to handle 120,000 unique visitors at a time -more than double the number of users on the site at any one-time last week. In addition, more than 500 state employees have been shuffled from sister agencies to help deal with the onslaught of unemployment assistance applications. DEO started last week with the capacity to manage about 17,000 applications. Since the improvements the state managed 62,000 claims on Sunday and another 22,000 by 10:00 a.m. today. In addition, DeSantis used the occasion to announce he's issued another executive order, this one suspending document taxes or "doc stamps" on small business loans made under the \$2 trillion federal CARES Act. Under the order,

employers may use the full dollar amount to pay their rent and help their employees.

##### 5. **Florida's Budget: Sitting Pretty or Just Pretty**

**Terrifying?** Recession is upon us, but some argue that Florida appears better prepared than many to weather this storm. First, the reason for this economic tumble isn't a foundational element of our state's budget as it was in the housing market crash in 2008. We've experienced several healthy budget cycles allowing the state reduce debt and funnel dollars to reserves. Second, the state is sitting pretty on higher than expected balances of general revenue reserves. Analysts projected January and February revenue collection would put our GR reserves at around \$1.9 billion. Turns out we came in higher and thanks to that strong performance and matching federal funds, we're expected to be well north of \$2 billion. This sunny news couples nicely with our final point -- the expected stimulus infusion of \$12 billion for Florida. \$4.6 billion is slotted for state stabilization efforts, \$3.7 billion will go toward local government stabilization and another \$3.7 billion is on its way for state-specific programs. With these numbers in mind, legislative leaders are planning to reconvene early in the summer to hash out any adjustments to next year's budget and, of course, spend those federal dollars.

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**STAY CONNECTED**

thru Southern

The Southern Group lobbyists are proud to connect you with the state and local government decision-makers directing our state's response to COVID-19.

Join us for our weekly webinar Wednesday to hear from [Florida House Appropriations Chairman Travis Cummings](#) and [Data Targeting's Matt Mitchell](#) as they discuss Florida's quickly evolving political environment in response to the virus. Contact your Southern Group lobbyist for details!

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## US CASE COUNT

# 364,723

## 10,781 DEATHS

As Reported by Johns Hopkins

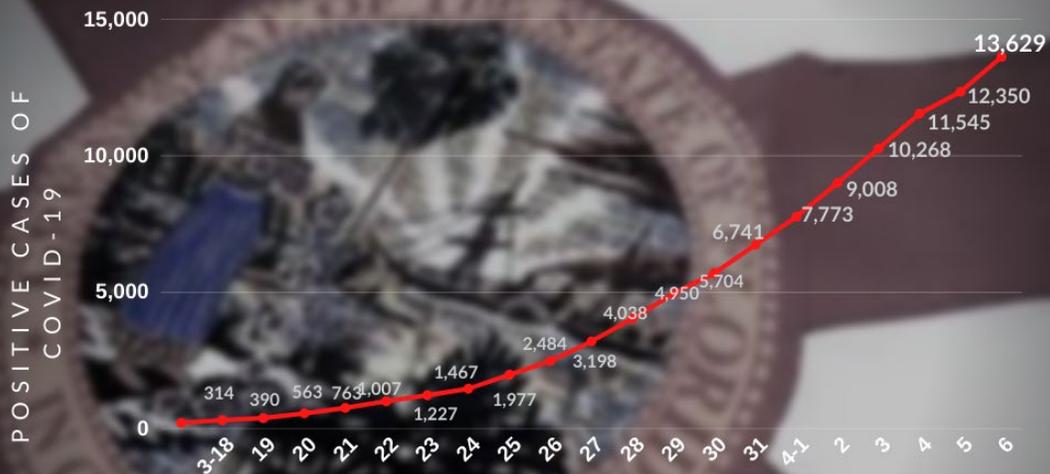
## FL CASE COUNT

# 13,629

## 254 DEATHS

As Reported by FL DOH

## FLORIDA CORONAVIRUS CASES TRENDLINE



Based on reporting from  
the Florida Department of  
Health

Florida's COVID-19 case count includes confirmed cases in Florida residents, deaths, and cases in non-Florida residents that were discovered in the state of Florida.

These case counts originate from the Florida Department of Health's Newsroom: [www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/](http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/)

# FLORIDA HEADLINES

Florida Politics: **Jared Moskowitz: State Will Have Enough Ventilators And Beds for COVID-19 Peak**

Fox News 13: **Florida Coronavirus Cases Top 13,000 After Nearly 1,000 New Patients Reported Over Night**

Sun Sentinel: **Florida Coronavirus Updates: Model Shows Peak In State Deaths Earlier, And Higher, Than Previously Predicted**

Fox News: **Florida County Tells People To Maintain Social Distance Of '1 Alligator' Amid Coronavirus**

Florida Politics: **How Low Can They Go? Florida Gas Prices Plummet As Economy Tanks**

Orlando Sentinel: **Florida Loosens Some Candidate Qualifying Requirements Amid Coronavirus Outbreak**

Fox News 13: **Governor Says Bulked-Up Website, Call Center Should Ease Unemployment Application Problems**

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## THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[Fox News](#): **Dow Surges 1,100 Points as Coronavirus Shows Signs of Slowing in New York**

[Politico](#): **Marco Rubio Finds His Next Act**

[NPR](#): **In New York, Overflow Hospitals at Javits and on Navy Ship Have Been Largely Empty**

[NBC](#): **Falling Through the Cracks: Many Americans Won't Get Coronavirus Checks**

[CNN](#): **Acting Navy Secretary Blasts Ousted Aircraft Carrier Captain as 'Stupid' in Address to Ship's Crew**

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## THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[Forbes](#): **China Thought It Had Beaten Coronavirus, But New And Asymptomatic Cases Are Cropping Up**

[BBC](#): **Coronavirus: Spanish Deaths Fall For Fourth Consecutive Day**

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## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- [Learn If You May Be Eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#)

- [Business Damage Assessment Survey - Communicate Impacts of COVID-19](#)
- [Application Window Extended for Florida Disaster Grant Fund - Hurricanes Irma & Michael](#)

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## 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 →](#)

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## 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)*

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