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Having some states shelter in place while others are still free to roam is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

8:49 PM · Apr 2, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

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1. Another Week, Another Peak in Florida.

The much-cited University of Washington pandemic model has been updated and is now projecting a more intense peak of COVID-19 cases two weeks earlier. UWash said that because Florida was late in implementing a stay-at-home order and the order that is in place is not particularly restrictive, the peak of COVID-19 patients will be more severe but of shorter duration.

The model now predicts a peak in Florida deaths two weeks from today on April 21 at 242 deaths on that day and with total deaths plateauing about June 1 at slightly less than 7,000 statewide.

The UWash model does not attempt to provide county-level projections for Florida. If you would like to see county-level projections for Florida under a different model you can go [here](#). If accurate, the county-level projections indicate wide variances in peak times depending on whether counties are urban or rural and coastal or interior.

2. Dying to Vote?

With COVID-19 spreading, 15 states have already pushed back their presidential primaries, some as far as late June, to comply with public health recommendations. Wisconsin had planned on being the 16th state, but its state supreme court thwarted that effort. Wisconsin's Democrat Governor had issued an executive order that deferred the state's presidential primary from today to June 9. Late Monday, the eve before the primary, the Wisconsin Supreme Court's conservative majority voted 4-2 to overturn the Governor's executive order, keeping the original date for voting in place. However, they did extend absentee ballots through April 13 in light of COVID-19. This is the first in what could lead to a series of arguments that pits public health against the right to vote. Do states ask their citizens to risk their health to vote or will primaries throughout the nation continue to be extended?

3. Miami-Dade Takes Coronavirus Testing to the Next Level.

This week, Miami-Dade County, the University of Miami and various private sector partners rolled out a unique testing program modeled after successful testing programs established overseas in early, hard-hit areas like Wuhan and South Korea. Designed to uncover not just infected individuals in need of healthcare services, but penetration rates of the disease throughout entire communities, the test uses antibody detection to determine who has already been exposed to the virus. If antibodies are present in an individual and they're not

sick, and if you can prove they're not shedding the virus, it's possible those individuals could safely reengage in normal life. Understanding that the first priority are the active sufferers, Miami-Dade wisely launched this effort on a small scale. They'll random sample 3,500 individuals over the next month and with the data from those blood tests, officials will piece together a map of how deeply coronavirus has burrowed into their community undetected. Coming at the issue from the dual perspective of current and prospective need is a smart play in our book. Well done!

4. Stimulus? More Like Stimuli.

Ready for another round of federal cash? While the stock market has rallied amid Wall Street optimism that the pandemic's domestic spread could be slowing, Congress is facing the harsh reality of a decimated economy. The new Small Business Administration loan programs continue to overwhelm the agency's system, and it has become abundantly clear that the economy's fortune is tethered to political decisions in Washington.

Congress is poised to move with lightning speed to send \$250 billion more to small businesses by the end of the week.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday that he is working with Minority Leader Chuck Schumer to deliver more money to the Paycheck

Protection Program, a popular \$350 billion program for businesses to cover payroll and expenses during the coronavirus pandemic. This quick interim fix is not without controversy as Democrats complained they were blindsided by Sen. Marco Rubio's tweets about fast action and McConnell's statements about spending hundreds of billions of new dollars with two days' notice. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made clear Tuesday that she considers this an "interim package" and still plans to pursue another massive bill that would expand unemployment benefits, include another round of direct cash payments and increase funding for state and local governments. Meanwhile, President Trump has put in a new pit boss. He removed the chairman of the federal panel Congress created to oversee his administration's management of the \$2 trillion stimulus package. Glenn Fine, who had been the acting Pentagon inspector general, was informed Monday that he was being replaced by Sean O'Donnell, currently the inspector general at the Environmental Protection Agency.

5. The Governor Listened to Doctors, and

Two Florida healthcare professionals, Dr. Sunil Kumar with Broward Health Medical Center and Dr. Carlos Campo with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, joined Governor DeSantis to discuss medical treatments available for COVID-19 patients. Dr. Kumar said treatment strategies change hour by hour and his team is exploring every available option, including

This is What They Said.

hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin (Z pack) together, hydroxychloroquine along with statin drugs, and even turning patients on ventilators onto their stomachs to help their breathing. Dr. Campo stressed that these medications need to be used under a doctor's supervision. "We're looking at all protocols to help stabilize these patients," he said. Governor DeSantis said he had received many questions about when elective surgeries could be done. Dr. Campo said that could not yet be determined because the coronavirus would peak at different times in various areas of the state. The Governor said UF Health Shands Hospital's newest testing site in a Jacksonville low-income housing area would provide both clinical support and contribute to the research into how coronavirus is affecting the entire population. He reported that 140,000 people have been tested statewide, 15,000 people who traveled to Florida by air or car have been screened, hospital bed capacity is at about 43%, and 250 additional state employees started taking calls yesterday for the Department of Economic Opportunity's unemployment benefits system. Also, the Office of Insurance Regulation has issued two memoranda: one to provide guidance on the treatment of policyholders as part of the state's ongoing efforts to protect Floridians; and the other to encourage the use of technology to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

[Informational Memorandum OIR-20-05M](#)

[Informational Memorandum OIR-20-06M](#)



14,747

FL Case Count

8.2% GROWTH SINCE 4/6

296 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



387,547

US Case Count

6.3% GROWTH SINCE 4/6

12,291 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



1,413,415

Global Case Count

81,259 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

ANSWERING THE CALL

In case you missed it, yesterday, Governor Ron DeSantis took to [Twitter](#) to personally thank [FedEx](#) for stepping up to assist the state of Florida with a critical function at a critical time. Just as reemployment applications throughout the state have soared, the state's efforts to process applications online has stalled. Recognizing that paper applications are a viable means to apply, 100 FedEx storefronts are offering free printing and mailing of reemployment assistance applications. **The Southern Group** is proud to work alongside the amazing team at FedEx and we thank them for efforts to help their fellow Floridians.



FLORIDA HEADLINES

