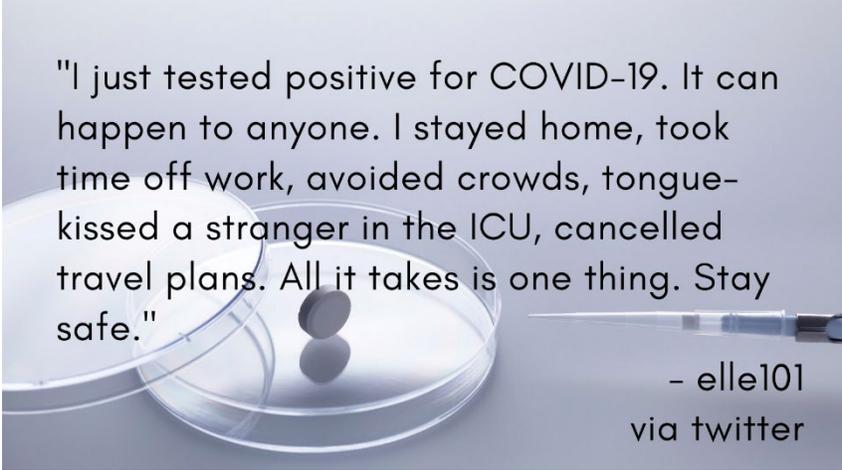


COVID -19 INSIDER REPORT



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"I just tested positive for COVID-19. It can happen to anyone. I stayed home, took time off work, avoided crowds, tongue-kissed a stranger in the ICU, cancelled travel plans. All it takes is one thing. Stay safe."

- elle101
via twitter

Going Viral: Five Things You Need To Know

1. **United States Leads the World in Confirmed COVID-19 Cases.** We passed this threshold yesterday with 81,321 total cases, eclipsing China's total and marking Day 10 of the White House's "15 days to slow the spread" campaign. The US is currently logging the fastest doubling rates for its COVID-19 cases in the world, worse than Italy (3 days for doubling) and Iran (5 days for doubling). Korea and Hong Kong with their aggressive containment strategies saw a doubling every 23 days. The US is experiencing a doubling of cases about every two days. Yesterday the increase was more than 15,000 cases, *but if the doubling trend continues unabated by the end of next week, we will have more than a million cases in the US.* (Remember, with exponential growth: slowly, then all at once. (See video below for

greater detail.) Hot spots for the disease include New York, California, New Orleans, and Seattle, although now the disease can be found in every state.

2. **The Scalpel Versus the Sledgehammer.** Governor Ron DeSantis has said that he wants to take “a surgical approach” to combatting the viral spread in Florida, and with Florida’s diverse population, geography, and scattered clusters of cases, it’s understandable why this locally targeted approach is attractive. While larger case clusters exist in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Orange Counties, there are 19 of Florida’s 67 counties that currently have zero cases. Why use the sledgehammer of social distancing when it appears nobody is infected in these mostly rural areas? The best alternative, scientists say, is to deploy tests that rapidly (in less than an hour) give results and to test both symptomatic patients and randomly within the population. Once a positive test occurs, then engage in contact tracing to shut down the spread. Contact tracing involves locating every person that was potentially exposed and isolating them for the incubation period; probably two weeks. Ideally, the contact tracing would be equally sophisticated. In Hong Kong, the government used GPS data on cell phones so they could determine exactly who came within close proximity to the infected patient. Unfortunately, rapid testing and contact tracing are currently not available on a mass scale in Florida. So, while we may be adopting the surgical approach, we’re doing so with fewer surgical instruments than some

governments that have pursued this strategy.

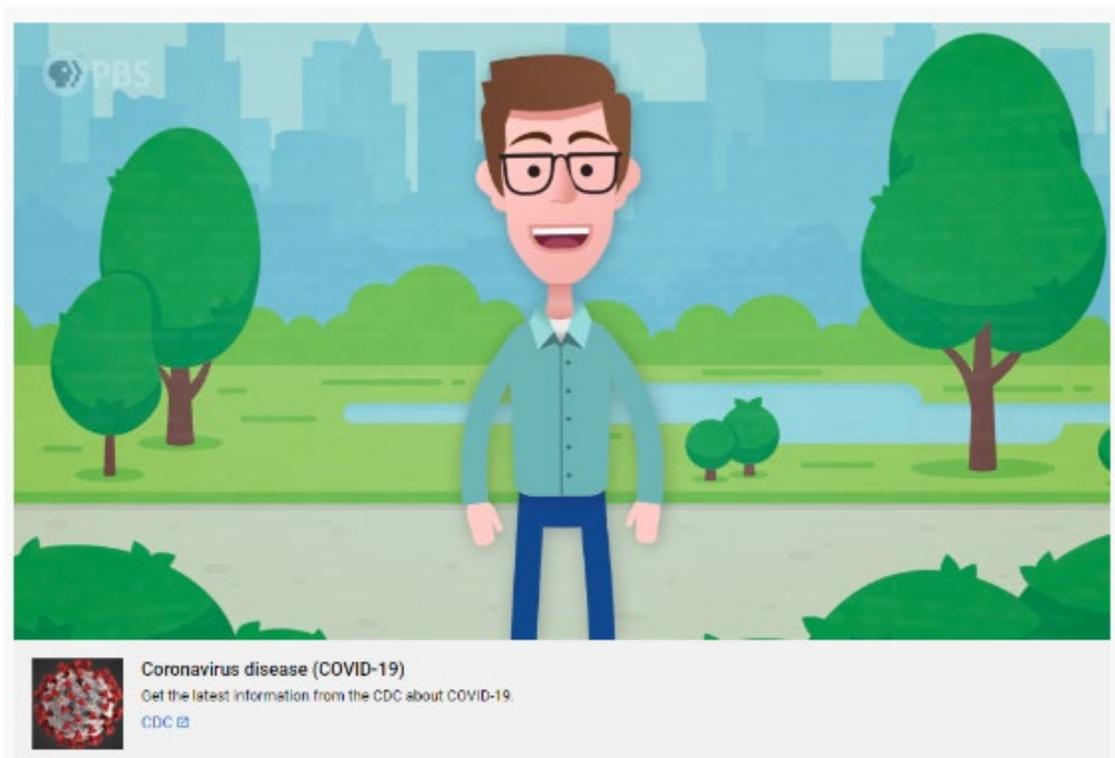
3. **There's aggressive, and then There's Miami-Dade.** We went looking for the most aggressive social distancing in Florida, and we ended up there. Local leaders are attacking the COVID virus with the same ferocity you'd expect from a caged tiger. (See what we did there? Seriously, you have to watch **Tiger King**). A new police-enforced stay-at-home order takes effect today, discouraging residents from being outside their homes for anything except essential activities like obtaining food and medicine. So, Publix is installing Plexiglas barriers at checkout lanes, and all open businesses will now have six-foot distancing guides where lines form. Restaurants are limited to take-out and delivery, and a 10:00 p.m. curfew goes into effect. Metrorail and buses continue to run but with reduced routes and frequency, and residents can no longer UberPool. If you're thinking about throwing a party on your yacht, think again. Public marinas and docks are closed to everyone besides liveaboards, commercial fishermen, and citizens returning from international voyages.
4. **Stimulus Package Rolls Through the House on its Way to the White House.** In a flurry of activity, the US House of Representatives approved the historic \$2 trillion stimulus package, sending the language to the White House for President Trump's signature. In the lead-up to the vote, lawmakers scrambled back to Washington in a valiant effort to get enough members together for a recorded vote

after GOP Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky said he would ask for a roll-call vote. Turns out the rush was warranted. Having a quorum present paved the way for the measure to pass by a voice vote – where members yell out yeas and nays and the presiding member decides which is louder – so House members were there to vote on what is likely to be the biggest and most historic piece of legislation they will vote on in their careers. The massive relief package includes cash assistance to taxpayers and expanded benefits for the unemployed, relief for airlines but not for the cruise industry, a corporate liquidity fund, and deferred payments of student loans. Now all that's left is for Trump to sign and implement and reverse the direction of the spiraling economy.

5. **Could Florida Stimulate Its Own Budget?** Florida legislators have considered some interesting policy proposals over the last few years, several of which could be revenue generators if they were so inclined. Exhibit A: tax revenue from online sales. Bills proposed in recent years failed to gain traction, but the payoff could be huge – upwards of hundreds of millions of dollars dumped into the state's general revenue fund. Then there's the issue of bed taxes. Companies like Airbnb and other rental platforms have voluntarily entered into local agreements across the state where the platform itself manages the collection and remittance of sales tax on short term rental transactions. The uniform collection method makes for a more efficient and effective collection method getting local revenue in the hands of government officials sooner. The same outcome

could benefit the state's coffers should Florida take the policy statewide. Last but certainly not least, there's the ever-elusive promise that is a Seminole gaming compact. Lawmakers attempted to hammer out a new deal with the Tribe this past session, but time ran out before they could reach an agreement. Both Senate President Bill Galvano and Governor Ron DeSantis indicated significant progress during negotiations and have said a special session on gaming is a "definite possibility." If a new deal is reached, it could bring in around \$500 million annually to the state.

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH EXPLAINED



Thanks to reader, Joanie Schirm, for sharing this video!



The Southern Group is proud to work alongside amazing companies like [Wells Fargo](#) which recently committed \$175 million to organizations on the front lines of the fight against corona virus. Here in Florida, the Wells Fargo Foundation donated \$300,000 in response to COVID-19. Grants will benefit: Feeding Florida (Florida Food Bank Network), Heart of Florida United Way (ALICE Recovery Fund), Pinellas Community Foundation (Tampa Bay Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund), United Way of Broward County (COVID-19 Campaign), United Way of Miami-Dade (Miami-Dade Pandemic Response Fund), United Way of Northeast Florida (First Coast Relief Fund), and the United Way of Palm Beach County (COVID-19 Response Fund).

US CASE COUNT

97,028

1,475 DEATHS

As Reported by Johns Hopkins

FL CASE COUNT

2,900

34 DEATHS

As Reported by Johns Hopkins

FLORIDA HEADLINES

[Florida Politics](#): **Sorry Floridians: State Regulators Say No Cocktails To Go**

[Forbes](#): **Feverish Florida Awaits A Deadly Storm: Coronavirus**

[Tampa Bay Times](#): **Evictions, Foreclosures Could Be Halted Under Florida Supreme Court Coronavirus Order**

[WJCT](#): **Florida's Online Notary Law Is Allowing More Business To Get Done During COVID-19**

[Miami Herald](#): **Coronavirus has Florida's K-12 Schools Online Only A Week. Is This The New Normal?**

[Florida Politics](#): **Survey Finds 99% Of Florida Lodging Businesses Are Suffering**

[AP](#): **Florida's number of coronavirus cases jump sharply**

THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[NPR](#): **Relief Package Includes Billions for Boeing and Airlines**

[Fox News](#): **Congress OKs \$2T Stimulus in Historic Coronavirus Response, as Rep's Objections Sidelined**

[CNN](#): **Trump's Approval Up Amid Coronavirus Concerns**

[Politico](#): **Trump's Push to 'Reopen' Country Comes Into Fuller Focus**

[CNN](#): **Trump Administration Appears to Back off Easter Timeline to Relax Coronavirus Guidelines**

THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Washington Post: **Boris Johnson And U.K. Health Secretary Test Positive For Coronavirus, Chief Medical Officer Has Symptoms**

Independent: **Coronavirus: Hundreds Dead In Iran From Drinking Methanol Amid Fake reports It Cures Disease**

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

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

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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)*
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