

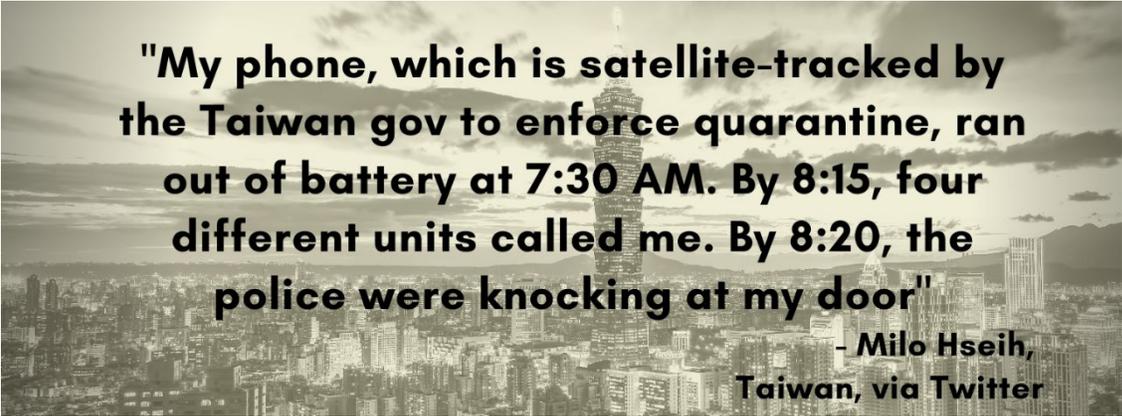
**COVID -19  
INSIDER REPORT**



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**"My phone, which is satellite-tracked by the Taiwan gov to enforce quarantine, ran out of battery at 7:30 AM. By 8:15, four different units called me. By 8:20, the police were knocking at my door"**

**- Milo Hseih,  
Taiwan, via Twitter**

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## *Going Viral: Five Things You Need To Know*

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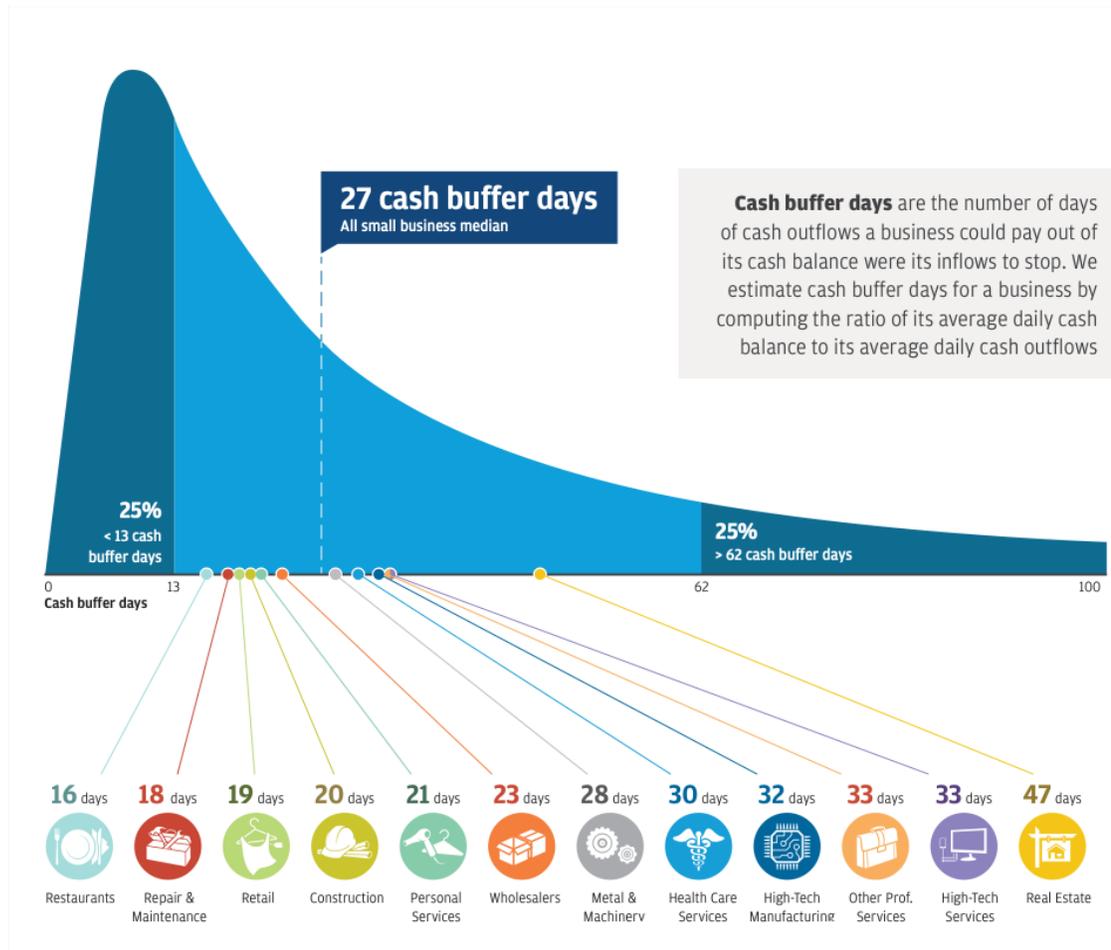
1. **Slowly, Then All at Once.** If you want to understand the explosive potential of the COVID-19 pandemic, you'll need to grasp the mind-blowing and counterintuitive power of exponential growth. Among viruses COVID-19 is fairly contagious. On the average, for every person who gets COVID-19, they will transmit it to slightly more than two people. By contrast, common seasonal flus are transmitted on the average to only about one person. This higher transmission rate for COVID-19 means that in the absence of social distancing it doubles rapidly in the population. How rapidly? Let's talk round numbers. Almost four weeks ago Florida had 1 COVID-19 case for every 10,000,000 citizens; a miniscule amount. Today, we have about 1 case per 10,000 citizens; notable, but hardly worrisome. About four weeks from now, if infection trends continue unabated, we will have 1 case per 10 citizens; sick people everywhere. This is the remarkable power of

exponential growth. *Slowly, then all at once.*

2. **What's the Best-Case Scenario for Florida?** Currently, among the states with more than ten COVID-19 deaths, Florida has the lowest rate at which those cases are doubling in number. For example, New York's number of deaths doubles every two days and today should approach 200 deaths. Florida, however, will by today have about two dozen deaths, and that number has taken six days to double. If Florida's growth in the number of deaths continues to be slow, and the increasing heat and humidity of summer have the effect of tamping down the viral spread as some preliminary studies suggest, Florida could largely dodge the mortal bullet that has hit New York, Washington, and California. The summer heat could buy us enough time for drug therapies or a vaccine to be developed, or for the virus to mutate to a less virulent form. The latter probability is not unprecedented. Both SARS and MERS, both initially deadly coronaviruses, ultimately became far less virulent.
  
3. **Should We Call it a Flash Recession?** The impact of COVID-19 on the economy is potentially unlike anything we've ever witnessed both in its severity and brief effect. Remember, merely a month ago the economy was booming and the stock market was soaring to record highs. In the past month it dropped faster than it ever has in history including the Great Depression. But, unlike other financial crises, there is no obvious underlying structural weakness in the economy. And, when COVID-19 finishes burning through the population and our citizens are immune,

there will be no physical damage to the infrastructure that supports our economy. So, unlike a natural disaster that leaves billions of dollars of physical damage in its wake, and unlike a normal recession that results from a contraction of economic output in response to reduced demand, the day after the last American is cured of COVID-19 we should, theoretically, be able to simply pick up where we left off with a booming economy. The challenge will be locking in place the skilled workforce and small businesses that will allow that rapid recovery to occur. About 80% of American workers live paycheck-to-paycheck, and a surprisingly large number of small businesses are in a similar position. For example, JP Morgan found that restaurants on the average have a cash buffer of only 16 days. It is this lack of a financial safety net that is driving government policymakers to both formulate bail-out packages and

resist closing businesses.



- 4. Florida Steps Up Its Fight.** Governor DeSantis has gone straight to the top in his quest to help Florida fight the coronavirus pandemic – he’s asked President Trump to declare Florida a disaster area, which would make the state eligible for federal aid, because we’ve already spent \$208 million on related unemployment assistance, food stamps, disaster loans, and mental health counseling. And although the Governor has resisted issuing a statewide shelter-in-place order, safer-at-home orders were given Tuesday morning in 10 of the Miami-Dade cities that have been hardest hit, including Miami Beach, Key Biscayne, Bay Harbor Islands, and Bal Harbour Village. Gainesville and Alachua County, where

the 36 confirmed cases include college students returning from spring break, also have issued stay-at-home orders. The Governor has outlined a five-step strategy from the beginning: to stop the introduction of the virus into Florida, protect the vulnerable elderly and immunocompromised, expand access to testing, to support social distancing, and prepare for any coming hospital surge. Will these measures be enough? Only time will tell.

5. **Are We Having a Special Session?** Given the role tourism and business activity play in the state's general revenue collections, one has to assume that chances are quite high that we will have one this year and a betting person would probably take the over. But in Florida, the discussion of what that process will look like is largely informed by the state's Consensus Estimating Conference Process. The Chairman of the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee [tweeted](#) yesterday about that exact bi-partisan process, and late last week, we saw the Chief Financial Officer [call for the state's revenue estimators](#) to engage sooner rather than later. Florida is constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget every year. This Consensus Estimating Process is the bedrock for the formulation of those balanced budgets, and it will serve again this year as the bedrock for establishing a baseline of what revenues the state can reasonably assume to have held on to given the impact of COVID-19. Bottom line: it will be their consensus product that will instruct legislative leaders' actions on how to bring state spending into balance

some time prior to next session as they cope with the economic impact of the virus.

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At The Southern Group, our team of experts includes a host of seasoned professionals with deep experience in Florida's budgeting processes. We look forward to continuing to advise our clients as the state's budget is reshaped in the coming months.

If you have any questions about this process or its implications, connect with your Southern lobbyist

Visit [here](#) for more information on Florida's Consensus Estimating Process.

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US CASE COUNT

**44,183**

**544 DEATHS**

FL CASE COUNT

**1,412**

**18 DEATHS**

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## FLORIDA HEADLINES

[Click Orlando](#): **Travelers Flying From New York To Florida Must Quarantine, Gov. DeSantis Says**

[Tampa Bay Times](#): **Pinellas Resident, 67, Dies of Coronavirus, First Tampa Bay Death As Florida Cases Top 1,400**

[CBS Miami](#): **Coronavirus Update: Governor Ron DeSantis Calls For Major Disaster Declaration For Florida**

[Orlando Sentinel](#): **Florida Coronavirus Update For Tuesday: Orlando Airport To Follow Screening Order; \$2 Trillion Aid Deal May Be Close**

[Florida Politics: Miami-Dade Youth Fair Grounds To House 250-Bed Field Hospital](#)

[Florida Headline News: Marion County Prison Worker Has Coronavirus](#)

[Click Orlando: County Considers Midday Closing Of Brevard's Beaches Due to Coronavirus](#)

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## THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[Fox News: Trump Calls for Re-Opening Economy by Easter: 'We have to get back to work'](#)

[New York Post: Dow Soars 10 Percent as Investors Await \\$2 Trillion Coronavirus Package](#)

[Reuters: U.S. Could Become Next Coronavirus Epicenter, WHO Says](#)

[Wall Street Journal: A Guide to State Coronavirus Lockdowns](#)

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## THE INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

[BBC News: Coronavirus: Spanish Army Finds Care Home Residents 'Dead And Abandoned'](#)

[France 24: French Military Field Hospital Starts Unprecedented Peacetime Operations To Combat Virus](#)

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## 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](#)

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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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