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On average, a Panda feeds for approximately 12 hours per day.

This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine, which is why we call it a “Pandemic”



1. What you missed this weekend.

In Florida, Covid-19 cases increased by 2,332 from Friday to Monday and deaths increased by 97. The 1,400 new cases on Friday represented, at the time, the single largest one-day increase. Governor DeSantis announced that public schools would remain closed through the spring. State officials also revealed 302 nursing home facilities in 45 counties have residents or staff that have tested positive. Jacksonville opened its beaches with some social distancing requirements, and this received international attention. An updated model from the University of Washington predicted 1,363 deaths in Florida by August 4, far lower than they projected earlier in the week. On the national level, cases rose from 692,169 to 789,383 over the weekend and there were 1,728 new deaths for a total of 42,303 American deaths. The daily death toll in New York continues to drop although the toll has been high; one person in every thousand has died from Covid-19 in New York City.

2. Will universities resume normal classes in the fall?

Amidst the chaos, universities are faced with the challenging decision of when to allow students, faculty and staff back onto campus. Nationwide all colleges and universities have moved to online learning which is expected to continue throughout the summer. While no higher education institutions have officially announced a strategy for the upcoming fall semester, Boston University is one of the first to offer insight on the options they're considering. The university recently announced that the option of additional digital

semesters beyond the summer is under consideration. University leadership stressed they want to remain transparent with students, their parents and the larger community so they may prepare accordingly. Should this alternative be implemented, it will carry much larger significance than just when students can sit in classrooms again. Questions pertaining to on campus living, school sports, graduations, clubs and organizations will undoubtedly follow. As universities around the country have switched to online for the remainder of spring and summer semesters, will we start to see institutions mirror BU's judgement or will they remain adamant in returning to campus?

3. Why you should hope Covid-19 is mutating.

In the movies viruses always mutate to become more deadly. In reality, often the opposite occurs. We haven't done enough testing to fill in our knowledge gaps, but preliminarily it looks like maybe 50% of the Covid-19 victims are asymptomatic. That doesn't necessarily make them secret carriers of a deadly virus. It may make them carriers of a less potent strain that provides immunity to more lethal strains. Because asymptomatic carriers freely circulate in the population, the less deadly strains can quietly infect a community and ultimately provide herd immunity. It's sort of nature's way of providing a vaccine. This has happened before. The deadly Spanish flu of 1918 eventually mutated into the much less than lethal H1N1 seasonal flu that is around today.

4. The re-opening has begun.

A growing number of states, including Florida, watched residents take to the streets to protest stay-at-home orders this weekend. A group that calls itself Liberate South Florida caravanned through Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties demanding the economy come back online. Today Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina announced plans to ease lockdowns in the next few days. Michigan's governor said she is eager to loosen restrictions on businesses in her state after last week's protests there drew thousands, but a lack of testing supplies is keeping her from taking such steps. Kentucky's governor is working with six other states to coordinate a phased-in approach to re-opening, and the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington have formed a joint Western States Pact to guide decisions to re-open the region. In Florida, Governor DeSantis introduced the Re-Open Florida Task Force Executive Committee today. Members will develop short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies for re-opening the state and its economy due to the Governor by Friday, April 24. The Florida Chamber of Commerce supplied context to the [Task Force Members](#) providing a [presentation](#) on Florida's economic landscape pre and post pandemic as they begin their work.

5. Show me the green.

Late last week, Congress faced renewed calls for additional Covid-19 relief when the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) [ran out of money to issue](#)

[emergency small business loans](#). It took less than two weeks, [much of it frustration-filled](#), for applicants to completely draw down the nearly \$350 billion SBA-administered relief initiative. Federal officials from both parties had been negotiating for days on how to replenish the fund, but they were ultimately unable to reach agreement before the dollars ran out. Among the key sticking points has been Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's insistence that [additional PPP funding be coupled with broader relief measures](#). GOP leaders, wishing to keep PPP replenishment separate from future legislative actions, have largely opposed those efforts. However, such a stalemate can't last in the midst of a national crisis and now [a deal is beginning to take shape](#) that could fully replenish the PPP fund while including targeted additional funding for Covid-19 testing kits as well as aid for hospitals. As final negotiations continue and Congressional leaders [work this week to move a still-cloudy process forward](#), at least this much is clear: more help is on the way.



27,058

FL Case Count

9.3% GROWTH SINCE 4/17

823 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



782,159

US Case Count

13% GROWTH SINCE 4/17

41,816 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



2,468,733

Global Case Count

11% GROWTH SINCE 4/17

169,794 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

FEEDING FLORIDA'S FAMILIES



A network of local restaurants, hotels and hospitality industry organizations have joined forces to launch [Feed the Need Florida](#), a program that provides needed meals to food-insecure students and their families across the state. “There is an unprecedented need for students and families to have immediate and easy access to fresh, nutritious meals,” said **John Rivers, CEO and founder of 4Roots and 4R Restaurant Group**. “In the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, we felt an obligation to rally the industry to help fill gaps in Florida’s ‘grab and go’ program, and also ensure that the families of these students likewise have access to meals.” The 4R Restaurant Group will leverage its 4 Rivers BBQ resources to support meal preparation and distribution across the state in coordination with the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

FLORIDA HEADLINES



[FLORIDA POLITICS](#) 346 Cases, 15 Deaths
Overnight As Daily New COVID-19 Cases
Continue To Decline

[MIAMI HERALD](#): [Protesting In Their Cars,](#)
[Laid Off Workers Demand Changes To](#)
[Florida Unemployment System](#)

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): Florida Schools Are Closed Until Fall. Distance Learning Rolls On.

[NEWS 4 JAX](#): Decision To Reopen Jacksonville Beaches Draws National Media Attention, Scrutiny

[ASSOCIATED PRESS](#): Guard Injured In Attack At Florida Prison On COVID Lockdown

[US NEWS](#): 6% Of Florida Unemployment Claims Have Been Paid Out

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): PolitiFact Florida: Ron DeSantis Said Obesity Is A Top Risk Factor In COVID-19 Hospitalizations. Is It?

[CLICK ORLANDO](#): Osceola Officials Warn Residents Of Fake Coronavirus Testing Call

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



[NPR](#): Free Fall: Oil Prices Go Negative

[FOX NEWS](#): New York Coronavirus Deaths Hit Lowest Number in Weeks, but It's "Still Horrifically High," Cuomo Says

[CNN](#): These are the States That Require You to Wear a Face Mask in Public

[POLITICO](#): The IRS is Drowning in Unopened Tax Refund Requests Amid Pandemic

[CBS](#): Congress, White House Close to Deal on \$350 Billion in Additional Small Business Aid

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): China Raises Easing Coronavirus Border Controls with Other Countries

[BBC NEWS](#): Coronavirus: Brazil's Bolsonaro Joins Anti-Lockdown Protests

[CNN](#): Ghana Lifts Lockdown, Citing Improved Testing And 'Severe' Impact On The Poor

[FOX NEWS](#): Sweden Sees Jump In Coronavirus Deaths With Less Restrictive Guidelines Under Scrutiny



Tallahassee

No final exams for Leon County public school students thanks to coronavirus pandemic
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Jacksonville

Coronavirus: Jacksonville Mayor says city is hitting benchmarks needed for re-opening
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Orlando

Mayor Demings Forms Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force
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Tampa Bay

During COVID-19 Pandemic, Lakeland Regional Health and the City of Lakeland Open Drive-Thru Testing Center
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Miami

Miami-Dade beaches won't be reopening soon. Next up: return to parks, golf and boats
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Florida Keys

School District Talks Financial Implications Amid COVID-19
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BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



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Business Damage Assessment Survey - Communicate Your Impacts of COVID-19 [continue →](#)