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Me getting ready to go on zoom for something that should just be an email



1. Governor announces limited reopening.

Florida will begin the process of lifting some lockdown restrictions effective Monday, May 4. In an hour-long [press briefing](#) late this afternoon, Governor DeSantis outlined both [his administration's phased approach to reopening the economy](#) and his frustration with media coverage he considers to have fanned residents' fears around Covid-19. His presentation laid out various metrics demonstrating Florida's responsiveness to the crisis during the last month, and at many times he verbally criticized experts who had labeled Florida a likely hot-spot for the virus in the early stages of its spread. The Governor's plan, dubbed "Safe. Smart. Step-By-Step." and legally authorized in [Executive Order 20-112](#) which he signed tonight, gives reopening flexibility to all Florida counties except Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach where the pandemic has hit the hardest. The plan focuses on introducing economic activity back into Florida's communities in a staggered fashion, starting first with limiting occupancy in retail establishments and restaurants. Phase I directs the following activities:

- Schools remain in a distance learning environment,
- Hospitals can resume elective surgeries,
- Restaurants can allow outdoor seating with social distancing measures in place, and they can allow indoor seating at 25% capacity in compliance with CDC spacing guidelines,
- Retailers can open at 25% capacity in compliance with CDC spacing guidelines and continue to offer curbside pick-up,

- No change yet to bars, gyms or personal service such as hairdressers,
- Vulnerable populations should continue to isolate,
- Individual social distancing practices should continue, and masks should be worn in face-to-face public interactions

The Governor also committed to continue expanding Florida's testing capabilities, conduct robust contact tracing, and ensure hospitals maintain an adequate surge capacity and PPE supplies should cases reemerge all while stressing that Floridians must continue to take personal social distancing measures and act responsibly in this first attempt to return to normal.

2. In 2020, GDP actually stands for Gnarly Domestic Problem.

Today the U.S. Department of Commerce [released its quarterly dataset on the national economy](#), and – in what will come as a shock to absolutely no one – the numbers paint an ugly picture. In total, the federal government projects our national economy contracted by 4.8 percent in the first quarter of the year. This marks the first decline in GDP since a relatively modest 1.1 percent drop in Q1 2014, and it's also the most significant contraction since the 8.4 percent plummet at the worst of the Great Recession in Q4 2008. But here's the real kicker: the new numbers released today account for only two weeks of widespread economic shutdown during the second half of March. The compounding effects of lockdowns during

April and beyond won't be seen in this context until second quarter GDP figures are released in late July, but if the past is prologue it's safe to say that report will be historic in its grimness. In response to the data, the [Federal Reserve announced](#) it will continue to peg interest rate targets between 0 and 0.25 percent and keep further quantitative easing options on the table, with Fed Chairman Jerome Powell calling the U.S. central bank's aggressive efforts to date "appropriate."

3. In you're running for office in 2020, three timelines matter.

The first timeline is predictable; the one leading to November 3, 2020, the date of this year's presidential election. This is the date that in a normal campaign cycle would build to a meticulously planned crescendo after an epic series of debates, fundraising events, media appearances, and rallies. But this year, in the deep shadow cast by the pandemic, two other timelines will control that outcome: the economic recovery of the country, and the mounting death toll as the disease retreats and then surges anew. These timelines in combination contain so many variables that it is impossible to predict their influence on the ultimate outcome, perhaps right up until election day. What will be the pattern of lockdowns, if any, when votes are being cast, especially in critical swing states and counties? Will new vote-from-home alternatives favor Democrats or Republicans? (The studies show mixed results.) When will Congressional budget hawks begin to resist the multi-trillion-dollar stimulus packages that

others may find politically popular? Will the economy be showing signs of recovery by the fall, or will we see record jobless levels and millions of businesses permanently closed? Will socially-distanced debates, often the focal point of campaigns and media coverage in the final critical weeks, convey the same awkward hollowness of late-night comedians broadcasting alone from their homes? Nobody knows the answer to these questions, but campaign strategists are gripped by the growing fear that in a process that relies so heavily on the delivery of pitch-perfect messaging with precise timing, virtually every major variable that controls timing and content is not only beyond their control but also beyond their ability to predict.

4. Are we under-counting Covid deaths?

CDC data suggests that might be the case. The CDC tracks deaths in the US from all causes, including deaths from confirmed Covid cases. But, what about people who die from Covid but were never tested for the virus? Deaths in seven states hard hit by the virus show an unexplained 50% spike in deaths in recent weeks; in total about 9,000 deaths more than were officially attributed to the coronavirus. We've learned that Covid can attack any number of organs in the body, not just the lungs. Deaths from non-respiratory symptoms may dissuade experts from testing for Covid-19 given the limited availability of tests. In New Jersey, for example, between March 8 and April 11 deaths were above a five-year

average for that period by 172% or 5,200 people. But, New Jersey attributed only 2,183 of those deaths to confirmed Covid cases. That leaves 3,000 people dead with no official link to Covid but also no good alternative explanation for their cause. If you extrapolate these results nationwide, it's possible that the true Covid death toll is far in excess of the current official count.

5. Sweden's national experiment.

Nearly all countries embraced some form of lockdown in response to Covid-19 outbreaks. This exception was Sweden. Sweden allowed schools to remain open along with restaurants, gyms, cinemas with public transport continuing to operate as normal. Some measures implemented included closing museums, restricting visitors to nursing homes and banning groups larger than 50, but otherwise Swedes conducted business as usual. Sweden's neighbors, Norway and Finland, essentially shut down everything, and Finland declared a state of emergency. Sweden's government justified its decision by stating that it had faith in the decision-making of its citizens. It expected citizens to voluntarily practice social distancing, continually wash their hands while going about their daily lives and staying home even as businesses remained open. Sweden's Covid-19 death rate matches some countries that did implement harsher measures such as Ireland, but the number of confirmed cases and deaths in Sweden is also significantly higher than found in nearby Finland and

Norway. For example, Sweden has five times as many Covid-19 deaths as Norway.



33,193

FL Case Count

1.1% GROWTH SINCE 4/28

1,218 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



1,037,526

US Case Count

2.6% GROWTH SINCE 4/28

60,846 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



3,189,107

Global Case Count

2.5% GROWTH SINCE 4/28

227,177 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

FLORIDA HEADLINES



TAMPA BAY TIMES: Expect Changes At Tampa International Airport As Travelers Return

FLORIDA POLITICS: Will COVID-19 Rapid Test Provide The Antibody Screen Everybody Needs?

MIAMI HERALD: Cities Try To Plot The Reopening Of Their Economies. It Won't Be The Life You Knew

SUN SENTINEL: South Florida Could Be On The Brink Of A Meat Shortage

FLORIDA POLITICS: Suddenly, Vast Majority Of Florida Unemployment Claims Being Approved

NBC MIAMI: 1st Phase Of Florida Reopening Plan To Begin, Excludes Miami-Dade, Broward And Palm Beach

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



NPR: 'Tip of The Iceberg': Economy Shrinks at 4.8% Pace, but Worst is Yet to Come

USA TODAY: COVID-19 Caused Strokes in Young People Who Had Mild Coronavirus Symptoms, NYC Doctors Say

[POLITICO](#): 'The Nightmare Scenario': How Coronavirus Could Make the 2020 Vote a Disaster

[FOX NEWS](#): Coronavirus Vaccine Could be Ready as Early as September, Report Says

[CNBC](#): Stocks Jump on Hopes of Coronavirus Treatment, Dow Up 550 Points

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): Both New Zealand And Australia Contained Coronavirus, But One Is Set To Pay A Heavier Price

[FOX NEWS](#): Germany's Return To Normal Life In Jeopardy After Uptick In New Coronavirus Cases

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#): Pandemic Shakes France's Faith In A Cornerstone: Strong Central Government

[CNN](#): Coronavirus Death Toll 54% Higher In England And Wales Than Daily Stats Showed



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Grades for final
quarter will be on a
curve as a "safety
net"

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Duval County beach
hours extended May
4, some non-essential
businesses could
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