



THE
SOUTHERN
GROUP

COVID-19 Insider Report

 Post

 Tweet

 Share

[FOR INSIDER UPDATES SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)





**1. Draft
internal
Trump
Admin-
istration
memo shows
massive
Covid-19
spike in May.**

A draft [Homeland Security memo](#) obtained by the *New York Times* contains a detailed analysis of the impacts of Covid-19 and projects with the loosening of lockdown protocols by the end of this month we will be seeing 200,000 new Covid-19 cases each day and 3,000 deaths. Compared to today, that's a dramatic eight-fold increase in daily cases and a doubling of the daily death rate by the end of May. Most disturbingly, the eight-fold increase in daily cases means an even larger number of deaths weeks later in June. This is also consistent with the recent projections of the [Wharton model](#). If these estimates are even close to accurate it will mean state governments will have to quickly reassess whether to go back into lockdown. It also means that if you're planning to go out in the community, it is much safer to do so now than it will be in a few weeks.

**2. Florida
gets new**

You can drive through to pick up a burger and fries; you can drive through to get your prescription; and later this week you'll be able to drive through to find out if you've had Covid-19. Governor DeSantis was in Sarasota today

testing capacity as we reach one-day death record.

to announce the state will open antibody testing lanes at existing drive-thru testing sites. The hope is the results of these serological tests will allow the medical community and state leaders to estimate how many Floridians have been exposed to the virus, collecting regional detail in addition to statewide data. About 200,000 tests have been acquired and will be distributed among hospitals and drive-thru testing facilities. Although long in development, the launch of Florida's plan is coupled with the federal Food and Drug Administration's announcement this week that companies selling antibody tests must submit data proving the accuracy of their tests. Currently, there are more than 100 antibody tests available for sale throughout the US that have not undergone a formal review but are operating under a waiver. Thus far, the FDA has approved 12 antibody tests through the emergency use authorization process – most of them from large companies such as Roche, Ortho, and Abbott. The Governor also said the state is launching a first-of-its-kind mobile testing lab that will travel around Florida providing 45-minute rapid testing to determine if residents are positive for the virus itself, not the antibodies. He said yesterday that only 2.61% of all new tests statewide were positive, and the percentage of positive cases hasn't been above 6% in several weeks although, sadly, 113 victims died today according to the latest numbers from the Department of Health; the highest one day total to date.

3. Unlucky strikes.

Last month, nearly one-third of apartment renters in the US did not pay their rent according to data released by the National Multifamily Housing Council. With May rent now due, this month is shaping up to be even worse given the growing number of unemployment claims, and rent strikes are erupting across the country. While some tenants are temporarily protected from getting the boot by their landlord, state and federal rent abatement measures and mortgage deferrals for landlords won't last forever. Eviction Lab, a research site tracking eviction data, developed a state-by-state scorecard by distilling eviction protections from the various state and federal emergency orders, declarations and legislation in response to Covid-19. Florida has implemented some orders that limit eviction filings – including the Governor's April 2 executive order that suspends evictions and foreclosures for 45 days – but have largely left it to local discretion in implementing the eviction moratorium. A growing number of housing activists have begun to push back on landlords and policy makers to extend relief to tenants who've suffered some sort of financial hardship due to Covid-19. Rent strikes have popped up in New York, where citizens are using online petitions to declare their solidarity on rent relief. But just like their tenants, landlords too are feeling the loss of reliable income used to pay bills and mortgages, even if there are temporary deferral programs from some mortgage lenders. Tenants and landlords aren't the only ones suffering out there, though. As of May 1, more than 30 million Americans had filed for unemployment as a

result of the pandemic. So it is no wonder that in Florida, nine out of 10 citizens reported reduced spending and six out of 10 reported canceling or postponing travel plans according to a survey from the University of West Florida's Haas Center. Whether it's a rent strike or a spending strike, the dollar is getting as rare as a good haircut these days.

4. Busting China.

In the past week, senior members of the US government including President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [have continued to assert](#) Covid-19's origins are linked to a Wuhan virology lab. Whether or not one takes the ramifications of such claims seriously at this point, it's becoming increasingly clear China's state apparatus does. [According to Reuters](#), China's Ministry of State Security issued a report in April to the Communist nation's leaders concluding global anti-China sentiment is higher now than it's been since the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. The report allegedly outlines a wide range of potential geopolitical threats the Chinese government should prepare for as a result of this, including increased opposition to Beijing-led global initiatives such as the [Belt and Road program](#) and, in an unsettlingly worst-case scenario, direct armed conflict with the United States. Sino-American relations, which had recently thawed following the two countries' ["phase one" trade deal in January](#), are chilled once again with [each side blaming the other](#) for failing to take appropriate

measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. What eventually comes from the saber-rattling remains to be seen, but with the global pandemic far from over, it's a near-certainty we'll continue to see a bitter back-and-forth between the governments.

5. Victoria's Secret? (She's broke!)

Just this week J. Crew and Gold's Gym filed for bankruptcy, but they're hardly going to be the last retail casualties of the pandemic. RetailDive shows that [27 major companies](#) with national brands are potentially on the chopping block, and a handful are very close to filing. If RetailDive is right, when stores reopen you may want to hustle out for our last chance to shop at Neiman-Marcus, Victoria's Secret, Rite Aid, Game Stop, J.C. Penney, and Party City, among others. And thus Covid-19 is killing off iconic brands we've known for decades.



36,739

FL Case Count

1.5% GROWTH SINCE 5/4

1,471 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



1,199,238

US Case Count

2% GROWTH SINCE 5/4

70,646 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



3,646,206

Global Case Count

2.1% GROWTH SINCE 5/4

255,486 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

FLORIDA HEADLINES



[ASSOCIATED PRESS:](#) Virus Outbreak Sidelines
Florida Jury Trials Till July

[TAMPA BAY TIMES:](#) Florida Adds 113
Coronavirus Deaths, New One-Day Record

[ORLANDO SENTINEL:](#) Report Shows Workers
Suffering Before Coronavirus Shut Down

[FLORIDA TODAY:](#) Patients in Florida Had
Symptoms As Early As January, 2 Months

Economy

Before First Announcement

[SUN SENTINEL](#): Florida to Begin Coronavirus Antibody Testing, Starts New Nursing Home Restrictions

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



[WASHINGTON POST](#): 15 Children in New York City Have Developed a Puzzling and Serious Inflammatory Syndrome Possibly Linked to Covid-19

[CNN](#): Three Family Members Charged in Shooting Death of Security Guard Who Told a Customer to Put on a Face Mask

[NEW YORK TIMES](#): With Crispr, a Possible Quick Test for the Coronavirus

[USA TODAY](#): Feds Arrest 2 Men in First Fraud Case Involving PPP Loan Program for Small Businesses Hurt by Coronavirus

[FOX NEWS](#): Coronavirus Death Toll in US Projected to Double as Restrictions Ease, Key Model Predicts

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): Saudi Arabia, Hit With Oil Collapse and Coronavirus, Tosses Lifelines

[BBC](#): Coronavirus: France's First Known Case 'Was In December'

[CNN](#): Two Weeks Of Zero Local Infections: How Hong Kong Contained Its Second Wave Of Covid-19

[FOX NEWS](#): UK Coronavirus Death Toll Appears to Overtake Italy to Become Hardest-Hit Country in Europe



Tallahassee

'We have to take the university to them': FSU, FAMU, TCC do virtual tours in coronavirus era
[Read more here →](#)



Jacksonville

Coronavirus: Jacksonville restaurants welcoming back dine-in guests
[Read more here →](#)



Orlando

Here's how the Mall at Millenia is preparing itself to reopen
[Read more here →](#)



Tampa Bay

Lakeland native aids understanding of COVID-19

[Read more here →](#)



Miami

After six weeks of lockdown, Miamians enjoy first weekend of reopened parks, marinas

[Read more here →](#)



Florida Keys

Upper Keys senior facility staff and residents tested for virus

[Read more here →](#)



Learn if You May Be Eligible for Disaster

Unemployment Assistance [continue →](#)

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



Business Damage Assessment Survey -

Communicate Your Impacts of COVID-19 [continue →](#)