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Molly McNearney ✓
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Gentlemen, Heads Up: Your kids aren't coming home from school with that cute handmade Mother's Day gift this year. That's on you. Get out the glue.

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1. Big Apple seeds.

Yale researchers have revealed that most of the Covid-19 cases in the US, and by far the largest amount in Florida, were seeded from New York City. The unique genetic signatures of the Seattle and New York City Covid-19 strains have been traced across the country, and in the Southeast US virtually all the cases were seeded from the Big Apple. The research also reveals that the virus spread without social distancing constraints in February, weeks before any type of lockdown was mandated. Probably thousands of infected New Yorkers were freely walking around the city without the knowledge that they were spreading the virus. Researchers estimate that at the time New York City had one confirmed case of the novel coronavirus more than 10,000 residents had already been infected. And, interestingly, the source of the disease in New York was primarily from Europe, not Asia.

2. If you've seen this level of unemployment before you've also

Today the US Commerce Department released [new numbers](#) showing the unemployment rate skyrocketed to 14.7% in April, this metric's [highest reading since 1939](#), officially putting the *per capita* labor market impact of Covid-19 above the 10% peak unemployment rate of the Great Recession. Some say the figure [doesn't show the true extent](#) of the crisis and expect it to [continue growing in the coming months](#), potentially nearing the Great Depression's historic 24.9% and taking years to recover. Others believe we [may be currently experiencing the worst of it](#), with 18.1 million of the total jobs lost representing temporary

seen World War II.

layoffs that could come back as various parts of the economy begin to reopen. What's not arguable is that we were riding a generational employment high just a few shorts months ago. The US unemployment rate stood at 3.5%, its lowest figure in more than 50 years. Our economic fate in the short term will largely depend on whether Covid-19 infections start to surge again in the wake of the reopenings. If they don't, it could very well be the case we're at or near rock bottom economically. Otherwise the Tower of Terror we've been on lately may be poised for another big drop.

3. Covid-19 and vampires have one thing in common.

Turns out they both quickly die in direct sunlight. [Research released this week](#) by the Department of Homeland Security demonstrates UV rays do in fact kill coronavirus. [Through controlled lab experiments](#) the virus died quickly in direct light in the air and on surfaces, but lasted a little longer on skin. In addition, virus exposed to sunlight died at a much more rapid pace compared to virus exposed to just higher temps or humidity. In fact, being outdoors carries with it a host of anti-Covid benefits. That's why public officials across the country have prioritized parks and outdoor spaces for reopening. These spaces provide plenty of room for social distancing, fresh air and good old-fashioned sunshine. Fascinating and detailed studies from the CDC show the length of time individuals are exposed to the virus and the environment where that happens [are big drivers as to who gets sick](#). Air circulation patterns in

restaurants, seating arrangements in workplaces, the concentration of the virus in an enclosed space and the length of time a person spends in that space all play a role. Basically, if you're separated a reasonable distance from other people in the outdoors you're very safe, and if you're seated indoors with other people and slow-moving air you're greatly at risk. Maybe that's why today Disney World announced their open-air retail, dining and entertainment mecca, Disney Springs, will begin a phased reopening later this month.

4. Rich guy hobbies: Mark Cuban's army of secret shoppers.

You read that right. The social-distancing spies are coming from the sharks now. Mark Cuban financed a small army of secret shoppers to see how Dallas retailers, restaurants and consumers were behaving while reopening under new social distancing rules. His squad's after-action report is as follows: 36% of businesses opened their doors, and of those 96% were found to be non-compliant with all necessary guidelines, with only 60% following some mandatory measures and 54% adhering to *suggested* guidelines. The overall calculated score for individual performance on actions such as wearing gloves and masks, tables remaining six feet apart, disposable menus being used, along with other measures, was an underwhelming 43%. When evaluating national brand stores and restaurants, you might assume that health measures and standards had a higher chance of being met. Alas, you would be

incorrect. The bottom line: if Dallas is any indication of how we're doing nationwide on following social distancing protocols, we have a lot of room for improvement.

5. Great news for Palm Beach County!

Palm Beach County has been given the go-ahead to begin Phase 1 of reopening its economy on Monday, May 11. Governor DeSantis said that Palm Beach County is "incredibly important" to the state and is ready to take "the deliberate and methodical steps" of putting people back to work. "We need Palm Beach County in a leadership role for Florida's economic recovery," the Governor said. Palm Beach County Mayor David Kerner agreed. "There is no doubt this community will continue to lead the way in Florida's economic recovery plan in a safe, smart, and step-by-step way," he said, referring to the name of the Governor's plan for reopening the state. "Phase 1 is a large step toward recovery, toward putting our people back to work, and toward getting our community back," the Mayor said. He said the county's beaches would reopen on May 18 "in a consistent way across the county." Palm Beach County joins the 64 other Florida counties that rolled out Phase 1 on May 4. There was no mention of when Miami-Dade and Broward counties might start their Phase 1.



39,199

FL Case Count

1% GROWTH SINCE 5/7

1,669 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



1,263,052

US Case Count

1.4% GROWTH SINCE 5/7

76,032 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



3,889,841

Global Case Count

2% GROWTH SINCE 5/7

271,732 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

FLORIDA HEADLINES



[FLORIDA POLITICS](#): Palm Beach County Reaches Tentative Plan to Open Beaches on May 18

[CLICK ORLANDO](#): New Jacksonville Facility Will Care For Recovering Coronavirus Patients Only, Gov. DeSantis Says

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): Florida Tourism May Not Rebound For 'Several Years,' State Officials Say

[FLORIDA POLITICS](#): Unemployment: DEO Now Tracking Third Source of Relief

[WLRN](#): Researchers Investigate Flu Vs. Coronavirus Transmission in Florida

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): Disney Springs Will Reopen May 20, in Phases

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



[CNN](#): These Companies Are Hiring Rapidly During the Crisis

[FOX NEWS](#): Why Farmers Dump Food and Crops While Grocery Stores Run Dry and Americans Struggle

[CNBC](#): Why the Stock Market is Up Even with Historic Job Losses

[USA TODAY](#): Cellphone Data Shows That Americans Respected Stay-At-Home Orders but Are Starting to Move Again

[NPR](#): DeVos Uses Coronavirus Relief Funds to Top Off Small College Budgets

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): Easy As 1, 2, 3?
Australia Plots Course Out of Coronavirus
Clampdown

[BBC NEWS](#): Coronavirus: WHO Warns
190,000 Could Die in Africa in One Year

[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#): Hidden Toll: Mexico
Ignores Wave of Coronavirus Deaths in
Capital

[CNN](#): Bolsonaro Continues to Dismiss
Covid-19 Threat as Cases Skyrocket in
Brazil



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