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**I'M DREAMING OF THE DAY I FINALLY
GET TO WALK DOWN THE AISLE**



GOING VIRAL

**5
THINGS
YOU
NEED TO
KNOW**

1. The nation may be pressing the gas, but Fauci's foot hovers over the brake pedal.

White House top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci appeared via video conference before the US Senate today to speak to the realities the country is facing as states strive to reopen amidst Covid-19. In a hearing entitled *Covid-19: Safely getting back to work and school*, Fauci made it clear there is reason supporting his concern that a premature nationwide reopening could lead to a second wave of the outbreak. His and other witness testimony was repeatedly marked with words of caution emphasizing the need to remain vigilant in the face of the virus to ensure one another's safety. Specifically concerning the operation of schools in the fall, Fauci stressed that the hope for a vaccine by this time is a stretch. One idea that seemed to garner bipartisan support is the increase of nationwide testing to support states in their reopening efforts. Fauci remained steadfast in his cautious stance while continuing to emphasize the possibility of a second outbreak more devastating than the first, as our ability to contain viral spikes decreases the more communities open.

2. Covid-19 possibly linked to bizarre,

New York is unfortunately, once again, on the frontlines of another Covid-19 milestone. With an influx of complicated children's cases emerging, state health officials have begun to issue warnings that young children, thus far thought to be largely immune to the impacts of Covid, may be falling ill with different symptoms than we've seen in adults. Just under 100

sometimes fatal symptoms in children.

children that tested positive for Covid-19 began presenting with “pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome” in recent weeks. The symptoms are like another rare childhood illness, Kawasaki disease, and may include a long-lasting high fever, a rash, swelling of the hands and feet, abdominal pain or diarrhea. In extreme cases it can cause cardiac arrest and death. Typically, no respiratory issues are involved. Currently 5 children have died in the state of New York and additional cases appear to be cropping up across the US and in the UK. It has been stressed that medical assumptions cannot be made regarding these cases, as the inflammatory disease itself is rare, however all avenues are being explored regarding any link between coronavirus and pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome.

3. Feds look to Stimulus 4.0.

Fresh off the heels of the worst [jobs report](#) in US history, there is little agreement on what the next round of federal stimulus should look like or whether it should be pursued at all. Congressional Democrats, led by Speaker Pelosi, have been [working on a proposal](#) to send another round of direct payments to households in addition to expanding unemployment payments, rent and mortgage assistance, and student loan payment relief. The key provision of the plan however, \$750 billion in aid to cities and states, has found an opponent in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. In April, McConnell was on record stating [he'd favor allowing cities and states to test the](#)

[waters of bankruptcy](#) rather than use additional federal dollars to bail them out. Fellow Republicans have gone on the record expressing concerns that any federal payments to cities and states, given under the auspice of coronavirus relief, could effectively be used to bolster pensions and offset pre-pandemic deficit spending. [McConnell has suggested he is comfortable waiting](#) to see how the existing stimulus performs before moving forward with more spending. In response, Democrats are flirting with the idea of luring conservative leaders to the table by agreeing to codify liability protections for businesses reopening in the corona-economy, a key priority for Senate Republicans. Finally, there are the White House's priorities for the next round of stimulus, of which payroll tax cuts, additional corporate deductions, and increased infrastructure spending have all been discussed. The White House is reportedly also considering proposing [payments of up to \\$5,000 directly to Americans, borrowed against their future social security](#)— an idea almost certain to face opposition from congressional Democrats.

4. New rules for Florida seniors.

Although Florida is reopening, nursing home residents aren't feeling it. They live isolated in their long-term care communities, unable to receive visitors, interact with other residents, or even eat in their communities' dining rooms. Many seniors are beginning to show the physical and mental strain, and their families and caregivers are asking if the strict measures aren't more harmful than the threat of Covid-19 itself. The Governor has

praised the results thus far in long-term care settings whose infection and death rates have been lower than most other similar states. But recognizing that long term care facilities are hotbeds for flare ups that could thwart Florida's efforts to reopen, he is now doubling down. A bevy of orders and emergency rules have emerged over the past few days. Hospitals must now test (2 negatives 24-hours apart) every patient before discharging them to a long-term care facility. DeSantis requested of federal CMS (the request was quickly approved) regulatory flexibilities and the creation of a "swing bed" type reimbursement rate for hospitals housing Covid-19 patients who don't require inpatient admission. Nursing homes must now transfer out any Covid-19 patients if the facility is unequipped with appropriate ventilation systems and is unable to properly isolate and care for them. Nursing homes and ALFs must allow entry to state workers for purposes of mandatory testing of residents and staff, including recalling staff who are not working that day to the facility for testing. And the Governor has ordered a mobile clinic to begin making the rounds to long-term care facilities across the state for testing purposes. Meanwhile, it's become a race against the clock to allow seniors to resume their lives and routines as the health risk of isolation vies with the threat of the disease itself.

5. Jax quickly ramps up from lockdown.

Today our regional focus is on Jacksonville and the First Coast; the business-friendly region of Florida that may soon be the first to lift virtually all local lockdown restrictions. So far, Jacksonville has recorded 1,186 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with 29 deaths. The total case figure represents about 2.8% of the statewide total, a below-average figure considering Jacksonville is home to roughly 4.4% of the state's residents. Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry moved quickly in March to establish [a network of drive-through testing sites](#) in the area, and since then has been aggressively pursuing a coronavirus response that marries personal responsibility and community awareness with public sector support and enforcement. On the healthcare front, Northeast Florida has not experienced any capacity issues. On the economy, Jacksonville's government response has been swift and strong. In late March, Mayor Curry and VyStar Credit Union announced [a public-private partnership](#) to provide small business relief loans to Jacksonville companies following the widespread shutdown orders. Then the Jacksonville City Council approved the mayor's plan to [distribute \\$160 million in federal stimulus funds](#) to fund direct payments to impacted residents, to procure testing supplies, and to provide relief to entities managing public facilities that were forced to shut down as a result of the virus. In mid-April, Mayor Curry re-opened the Jacksonville area beaches in consultation with mayors representing the beach towns, which led to [a national media controversy](#) and, ultimately, Governor Ron DeSantis [publicly defending Jacksonville](#) and excoriating

some outlets' distortion of the situation on the ground. This was closely followed by Jacksonville embracing the Governor's Phase I plan to reopen the Florida economy. Today Mayor Curry announced the City is close to moving to Phase II of the Governor's reopening plan. The mayor also proclaimed he would be lifting his work from home order effective Monday, meaning as of next week all local restrictions in Jacksonville will effectively be lifted, and restrictions that remain will be based on the statewide executive orders still in effect from Governor DeSantis' office.

Northeast Florida testing data:

- Duval County 3.4% positive testing rate
- Clay County 5.8% positive testing rate
- St. Johns County 3.3% positive testing rate
- Nassau County 3.0% positive testing rate
- Baker County 4.3% positive testing rate
- Putnam County 5.2% positive testing rate

Northeast Florida hospital bed capacity data:

- Duval County 36.23% capacity available
- Clay County 19.28% capacity available
- St. Johns County 56% capacity available
- Nassau County 66.28% capacity available
- Baker County 10.72% capacity available
- Putnam County 35.71% capacity available



41,923

FL Case Count

2.3% GROWTH SINCE 5/11

1,779 DEATHS

as reported by FL DOH



1,358,901

US Case Count

1.4% GROWTH SINCE 5/11

81,805 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins



4,238,703

Global Case Count

2% GROWTH SINCE 5/11

290,269 DEATHS

as reported by Johns Hopkins

WEEKLY WEBINAR GUEST:

Senate Majority Leader Kathleen Passidomo



This week, The Southern Group is excited to announce that Florida Senate Majority Leader Kathleen Passidomo will be joining us for our weekly webinar. Leader Passidomo will be sharing her expertise as we discuss the effects of Covid-19 on the real estate industry and what the business and healthcare communities can expect in terms of policy and reforms following this once-a-century event. Please contact your Southern Group lobbyist for additional details.

FLORIDA HEADLINES



[ORLANDO SENTINEL](#): On-Time Rent Payments Fell in Florida at the Beginning of May; Landlords Brace For Worse if Unemployment System Not Fixed Soon

[TAMPA BAY TIMES](#): Women's Prison in Florida Becomes COVID-19 Nightmare

[MIAMI HERALD](#): Under Coronavirus Rules, Traffic is Way Down, But Speeding is Way, WAY Up

[FLORIDA POLITICS](#): Roads Less Traveled: Empty Roads Let FDOT Speed Up Work on More Projects

[USA TODAY](#): Naples, Florida, Votes to Reopen Beaches With Limited Hours After Rules Were Ignored the First Time

[ORLANDO SENTINEL](#): DeSantis Banking on Federal Stimulus Money as He Puts Florida Budget on Hold

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



[CNBC](#): US Reported a Record \$738 Billion Budget Deficit in April

[USA TODAY](#): US is 'Printing' Money to Help Save the Economy From the COVID-19 Crisis, but Some Wonder How far it Can Go

[CNN](#): Prices are Tumbling at an Alarming Rate

[NPR](#): Checkpoint Clash Escalates Between South Dakota Governor, Tribal Leaders

[POLITICO](#): Testing Czar predicts U.S. Can Conduct Up to 50M Coronavirus Tests Per Month by Fall

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



[THE NEW YORK TIMES](#): 'The New Church Of England': Coronavirus Renews Pride In U.K.'s Health Service

[THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#): Is It Safe To Reopen Schools? Europe Is About To Find Out

[CNN](#): India's Carbon Emissions Drop For The First Time In Four Decades

[BBC NEWS](#): Coronavirus: Wuhan Draws Up Plans To Test All 11 Million Residents



Tallahassee

Knight Foundation awards \$174,500 in COVID-19 relief grants in Big Bend
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Jacksonville

Reopening Jacksonville: Hair, nail salons and barber shops ready for customers
[Read more here →](#)



Orlando

The City Beautiful may be key to Major League Soccer's reopening. Here's how.
[Read more here →](#)



Tampa Bay

Governor accelerates more Tampa Bay road projects, including I-275, I-75
[Read more here →](#)



Miami

South Pointe Park re-opens, no face mask needed
[Read more here →](#)



Florida Keys

AP Exams, Class Night and Graduation
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BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



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



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Application Window Extended for Florida Disaster