Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Florida HEALTH

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

<mark>**Franklin and Gulf COVID – 19 Update – 7/23/2021**</mark>
For **Franklin County** updates straight to your phone: text **FranklinCV19** to 888777.
For **Gulf County** updates straight to your phone text **GULFCOVID to** 888777.

<mark>**Looking for a COVID-19 vaccine in Franklin or Gulf? Your Healthcare system has you covered.**</mark>
Your local Department of Health (DOH) and other medical providers continue to offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost. If you would like to schedule with the health department, please call DOH-Franklin at (850)653-2111 or DOH-Gulf at (850)227-1276. COVID-19 vaccines are also available through Weems Memorial Hospital, Ascension Sacred Heart Gulf, PanCare of Florida, Inc., North Florida Medical Center and local pharmacy locations, including CVS and Buyrite.

<mark>**What is going on with cases in our counties?**</mark> Let's look at July 2021 data:
The Florida Weekly COVID-19 data report can be found at the link: https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/

Gulf:

Week	Positive	Total tested	Percent positive
7/2-7/8	22	96	22.92%
7/9-7/15	46	198	23.23%
7/16-7/22	76	339	22.42%

Franklin:

Week	Positive	Total tested	Percent positive
7/2-7/8	3	48	6.25%
7/9-7/15	15	76	19.74%
7-16-7/22	26	139	18.71%

The vast majority of positive cases in both counties are **unvaccinated individuals**, between 15-44 years.

<mark>**"I know someone who got the vaccine and still got COVID-19."**</mark>
Vaccine Breakthrough Cases **are expected.** COVID-19 vaccines are effective and are a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. However, no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness in vaccinated people. Vaccine breakthrough cases occur in only a small percentage of vaccinated people and the risk for COVID-19 infection in fully vaccinated people **cannot be completely eliminated as long as there is continued community transmission of the virus**. There is some evidence that vaccination may make illness less severe for those who are vaccinated and still get sick.

<mark>REMINDER: If you test positive for COVID-19, please follow your isolation orders.</mark>
You can be with others after:
- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

If you have had an exposure to a positive case and are not vaccinated, please follow your quarantine orders. Call the health department for any questions. Information about quarantine can be found at the following link : https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html

Watch those symptoms!

Common symptoms include: headache, fever or chills, shortness of breath of difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. We often hear about "really bad headaches" or allergies. **These could be COVID-19 symptoms.**

How well are Franklin and Gulf doing with vaccination efforts?

Franklin: 42% (Franklin population: 12,295 **|** Age 12 & older with vaccine: 4,694)
Gulf: 40% (Gulf population: 14,829**|** Age 12 & older with vaccine: 5,236)
State: 60%

Fully vaccinated individuals may:

- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if they remain asymptomatic.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from routine screening testing if asymptomatic and feasible.

The above recommendations apply to non-healthcare settings. We recommend that you research travel restrictions, rules, and guidelines before traveling, as these can vary in different locations. Fully vaccinated individuals should continue to watch for symptoms of COVID-19. Regardless of vaccination status, if symptoms develop, individuals should isolate and be evaluated for COVID-19, including testing if indicated.

What about Variants?

The Florida Department of Health has been part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) SARS-CoV-2 sequencing efforts since the beginning of the pandemic.

The CDC is the lead agency on variant surveillance nationwide. To best understand variants, please refer to CDC data.

To better understand variants, we've included the following CDC link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html

It is important to note that virus mutation is common and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.

The approved COVID-19 vaccines are effective against COVID-19, including known variants.

The Department continues to urge all Floridians to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Call the health department to schedule your vaccine appointment and for any questions related to COVID-19:
Gulf: 850-227-1276, Franklin: 850-653-2111.