

Mission:

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



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

12/07/2020 Local COVID19 Update

Snapshot: 11/23/20 - 12/06/20
(updated every other Friday)

Positivity during this timeframe: 1%*

Positive tests this timeframe: 10

Total tests this timeframe: 692

Deaths during this snapshot: 0

*Positivity = the number of people who test positive in a week divided by all the people tested that week. Excludes people who have previously tested positive and all positive and negative inmate tests.

State Positivity: 7.7%
(as of 12/06/20)

Median Age in Franklin: 40

Totals Since the Beginning:

Unduplicated positive tests (rapid antigen and PCR): 838

Positive inmates: 322

Positive long term care (staff and residents): 6

Overall hospitalizations: 10

Deaths: 4

Here are the Franklin County testing numbers as of 2:00pm today: (see above)

For the full county COVID-19 profile report please visit:
http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19_report_archive/cases-monitoring-and-pui-information/county-report/county_reports_latest.pdf

Available hospital bed capacity, including ICU capacity in neighboring counties, can be found using this link.
<https://bi.ahca.myflorida.com/t/ABICC/views/Public/HospitalBedsCounty?isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&embed=y>

Summary of cases associated with schools:
http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19_report_archive/school-reports/schools_latest.pdf

For Franklin County COVID-19 updates straight to your phone: **text FranklinCV19 to 888777.**
 Florida Department of Health in Franklin County: (850) 653-2111
 Florida Department of Health in Gulf County: 850-227-1276
 There is also a hotline available at 1 (866) 779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Follow the [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) website for the latest guidance on COVID-19 and check out [Floridahealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov) to keep up with state-specific updates.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN TODAY'S UPDATE:

- Franklin County COVID-19 Profile Report 12/06/2020. (See link on page 1)
- Updated County Health Department Message (A Message From Your CHD, page 2)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vaccination Efforts

The Department of Health will approach COVID-19 vaccination efforts similarly to the integrated planning structure of the H1N1 pandemic, influenza vaccinations and Hepatitis A vaccination program. The first phase will be used to prioritize

- first responders
- hospital workers
- and residents and staff of long-term care facilities.

The Department is in the process of enrolling other hospitals throughout the state. The vaccine will be shipped directly to the hospitals when available. Florida's COVID-19 vaccination plan will continue to be modified and developed as more details become available. For more information on vaccine distribution see Gov. DeSantis' update here: https://youtu.be/5i_mCGdT-Gg

The CDC has updated the quarantine time frame. While a 14-day quarantine is the current recommendation, there are some additional options for asymptomatic close contacts to end quarantine earlier. As a reminder, close contacts are those individuals who have been within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, regardless of mask usage.

1. If an asymptomatic close contact gets tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on Day 6 or later and receives a negative result, then they may end quarantine after completion of Day 7.
2. Without testing, an asymptomatic close contact may end quarantine after completion of Day 10.

In both scenarios, individuals need to correctly and consistently wear face mask, practice social distancing, exercise good hand hygiene, avoid close contact and crowds, and self-monitor for symptoms. For more information, please visit the CDC's Web page at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html.

Reminder: Pledge to Protect

To all Franklin County residents and visitors, don't forget to check out floridasforgottencoast.com to see which businesses have taken the Pledge to Protect! These places featured online are committed to creating a clean, safe and healthy environment for residents and visitors. Everyone is going to have to do their part to make sure that we minimize the spread of the virus moving forward. This means continuing to observe social distancing, wearing masks where social distancing is difficult, and following good hygiene practices. Most of all, be respectful and kind to others. Businesses, if you are being featured on the website, PLEASE ensure you are following the guidelines you have committed to. Many visitors are calling with a specific list of "safer" places to visit and those who took the pledge are being shared with callers. If you need more masks or hand sanitizer, please contact your local TDC at (850) 670-3474.

This is our final scheduled update; however we will continue to update you periodically as information becomes available. For daily updates, data, and local counts check out [Florida's COVID-19 dashboard](#). For questions about COVID-19 testing, including scheduling appointments and requesting results, please call our local office in Franklin at (850) 653-2111 or in Gulf at (850) 227-1276.

QUARANTINE/ISOLATION FACTS

I tested positive for COVID19. When can I be around others (no longer infectious)? If you tested positive for COVID19, you need to stay at home and isolate per the guidance provided by public health officials. If you think or know you had COVID-19, and had symptoms, you can be with others after at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours has passed with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved. If you tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since your test. If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above that includes fever and symptoms improving. Follow this link to stay tuned on updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

CLOTH FACE COVERS/MASK

Why wear the mask in public?

Answer: My cloth face covering protects you. Your cloth face covering protects me. Although not a 100% guarantee, the use of masks has been proven using actual case investigations to dramatically reduce the spread of the virus. People who are infected can spread the virus before they develop symptoms or in the absence of symptoms. Wearing a cloth face covering may help prevent the spread of the virus by people who are infected and do not know it. Use of cloth face coverings continues to be a recommendation long-term prevention measures such as vaccines are being developed.

Cloth face coverings do not replace other protective measures. CDC still recommends that you stay at least 6 feet away from other people (social distancing), wash your hands frequently, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth....and your face covering. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2.

If you or someone you love needs a cloth mask, please call 850-340-3016. The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

For information on how you can make a facemask at home, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html> and watch this video <https://youtu.be/tPx1yqvJgf4>.

TESTING

If you suspect you might have COVID-19, please do not travel here. Please get a COVID-19 test (nasal swab for active infection) in your community and know your results before you arrive. Stay home when you are sick and follow CDC guidelines. Visitors are also responsible for helping to keep our communities safe and healthy. Call your health care provider first or if you are symptomatic to determine the need for testing. If a person thinks they have COVID-19, they should call their health care provider before going to their office so the provider can take precautions to prevent exposing other people. In some cases, they are going to meet you in the parking lot. It's just a precaution. We are really trying to keep our healthcare workers safe. Other patients safe. Review your signs, symptoms and travel history with your physician. Your provider is going to evaluate you for possible causes

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXPANDED TESTING PLAN

The Florida Department of Health offers FREE COVID-19 testing. Please call (850) 653-2111 to make an appointment.

COVID-19 REINFECTION

Available information from the CDC shows immunity for 90 days. There are no confirmed reports to date of a person being reinfecting with COVID-19 within 3 months of initial infection.

A person who has had and recovered from COVID-19 may have low levels of virus in their bodies for up to 3 months after diagnosis. This means that if the person who has recovered from COVID-19 is retested within 3 months of initial infection, they may continue to have a positive test result, even though they are not spreading COVID-19. Meaning, they are no longer infectious to others. However, additional research is ongoing.

Therefore, if a person who has recovered from COVID-19 has new symptoms of COVID-19, the person may need an evaluation for reinfection, especially if the person has had close contact with someone infected with COVID-19. The person should isolate and contact a healthcare provider to be evaluated for other causes of their symptoms, and possibly retested.

More information can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fstrategy-discontinue-isolation.html

MENTAL HEALTH

COVID-19 have you feeling...STRESSED/ANXIOUS/DEPRESSED/UNSURE? NEED SUPPORT? CALL 850-270-8911, available 9-5pm EST. If you are in need of immediate mental health services call one of the agencies below available 24/7:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- SAMSA Disaster Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 or the Crisis Text Line: Text "HOME" to 741-741
- Florida Blue, in partnership with New Directions Behavioral Health, is providing a free emotional support resource for all Floridians even if not covered by Florida Blue insurance. Any Floridian – even if uninsured or insured by another plan – can call 833-848-1762 for support in managing feelings of stress, anxiety, grief or fear related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has upended children's daily lives, resulting in added stress and uncertainty. Studies show that adversity during childhood, including adversity stemming from natural disasters, can have lasting impacts on children's social emotional health. Fortunately, families can take steps to support and protect children's emotional well-being during the COVID-19 crisis. For more information visit the Nat'l Institute for Children's Health Quality site at <https://bit.ly/2JFXCM6>.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHIP PROGRAM COVID RELIEF FUNDS

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners through the Franklin County S.H.I.P. Program will be receiving Corona Virus Relief Funds in the amount of \$175,000. For an application or more information please call Lori Switzer-Mills or Teresa Kelley at 653-8199, email: Franklincountyship@yahoo.com or come by the office located at The Fort Coombs Armory 66-4th Street, Apalachicola.

HURRICANE MICHAEL HOUSING RECOVERY PROGRAM

Florida Housing offers low 30-yr fixed interest rate first mortgages along with up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance and closing cost assistance for programs qualified homebuyers. For more information, please visit www.floridahousing.org then select "Homebuyer Programs Wizard".

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

There are several resources available for rural residents and business coping with the impact of COVID-19. Please visit the Rural Development Coronavirus Response page: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>

REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

We encourage any Floridian whose employment has been negatively impacted as a result of COVID-19 to visit FloridaJobs.org and click on Reemployment Assistance Service Center to learn more about the program and watch a short video on how to apply. Click <http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants/apply-for-benefits> for a direct link to instructions on how to apply for Reemployment Assistance. Select the hyperlink to download and view the http://floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/reemployment-assistance-center/new-individual-faq-includes-cares-act-final.pdf?sfvrsn=5f2547b0_14

If you can't apply by email you can pick up a paper application and submit it by mail. Below are the following pick up locations for paper applications in Franklin County. For more information you can contact: Career Source Gulf Coast at 850-653-4981. The application will be located in a box outside each building.

Apalachicola – CareerSource #1 Bay Ave Apalachicola, FL

Eastpoint – Ard's Service Station – 407 US Highway 98 Eastpoint, FL

Carrabelle City Hall – 206 Highway 98 E Carrabelle, FL

For a guide to frequently asked questions regarding Re-employment Assistance, visit

[http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-](http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants/claimant-faqs-(new))

[assistance/claimants/claimant-faqs-\(new\)](http://www.floridajobs.org/Reemployment-Assistance-Service-Center/reemployment-assistance/claimants/claimant-faqs-(new)). For information regarding assistance with utilities, rent/mortgages, food pantries, and other local disaster assistance, visit <https://www.211.org/>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FINANCIAL EMERGENCY/HARDSHIP - FRANKLIN/GULF COUNTIES:

Catholic Charities Financial Emergency/Hardship: (850) 763-0475

1. Call First Monday of each month after 9am for screenings
2. An initial screening will take place on the phone to complete the application process and receive an appointment. Proof of need will be required: past due utility bill, proof of check stub from place of employment (before and after date affected).

LOCAL UPDATES:

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For a list of youth feeding program sites near you dial 2-1-1.

PLEDGE TO PROTECT



Pledge to Protect is a voluntary program in which Franklin County tourism businesses commit to clean and healthy standards for their guests and employees to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Visit Pledge to Protect at:

<https://www.floridasforgottencoast.com/pledgetoprotect/>

By taking the Pledge to Protect, businesses are committing to:

- Proper Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Routine Cleaning and Disinfecting of Surfaces and Equipment
- Practicing Social Distancing and Minimized Contact

- Enforcing Any Sick Employees to Stay Home

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Franklin County Health Department has resumed full clinic services. This includes annual physical exams, well woman exams, Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, other routine appointments and COVID-19 testing. Please call (850) 653-2111 to schedule an appointment!

GOVERNOR'S UPDATES:

To see all of Gov. DeSantis Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, visit: <https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/>.

STAYING INFORMED:

To get the latest information, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/) and follow on Social Media:

Florida Department of Health: [Twitter @HealthyFla](#) -or- [Facebook Florida Department of Health \(DOH\)](#)

Franklin County Florida Emergency Management: [Facebook Franklin County Florida Emergency Management](#)

Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners: [Facebook Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners](#)