



Happy Easter!

Though our Easter gatherings may be small this year, may our faith in the Lord and our love for one another be overflowing. My continued wishes that you, your family and loved ones are healthy and safe, and remain that way throughout the unprecedented circumstances we are facing. We will get through this together.

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
Mark 10:27

COVID-19 Community Action Survey

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) has developed a community action survey to help gather information and continue to improve Florida's response to COVID-19. Please take a moment to contribute by answering the [StrongerThanC-19 survey](#) and share with your family members, neighbors and colleagues. The survey takes less than two minutes to complete and it is crucial that as many people respond as possible.

For the most up to date information and guidance on COVID-19, visit the DOH's dedicated COVID-19 webpage at [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19). For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center at (866) 779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Florida Reemployment Assistance Update

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently announced a new, mobile-friendly online application for Reemployment Assistance available at [FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication](https://www.floridajobs.org/RAApplication).

"The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is committed to ensuring Floridians are able to receive the benefits owed to them during this global pandemic," said Ken Lawson, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. *"The team is working around the clock to make the process for applying for Reemployment Assistance as easy as possible for Floridians."*

Those who have not filed a Reemployment Assistance claim should complete their application online or submit a paper application which is available for [download here](#). All applicants will need to complete the following steps:

- Step 1: Collect the following documents & information:
 - Social Security number
 - Driver's License or State ID number
 - Employment information for the last 18 months for each employer
 - Employer ID - FEIN number (this is found on your W2 or 1099 tax form)
 - Employer name (name on pay stub), address, and phone number
 - First and last day of work
 - Gross earnings (before taxes are taken out) covering the last 18 months
 - Reason for separation
- Step 2: Submit your Reemployment Assistance application online or by mail. CareerSource locations are available to assist with completing and submitting online applications. They are also providing paper applications at all [CareerSource Centers](#). FedEx locations are also offering the option to print and mail applications for Reemployment Assistance free of charge.
- Step 3: Receive your Reemployment Assistance application confirmation. If you mail your Reemployment Assistance application to DEO, a representative will contact you after your application is processed. A written determination will be provided electronically and/or by mail to explain if you are monetarily eligible, and if you are, what your weekly benefit amount will be.

My staff and I stand ready to help. As always, please contact me if I can assist you in anyway.

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

Governor Ron DeSantis signed the following bills into law this week:

[HB 7097: Taxation](#) establishes several tax saving measures, including the creation of two sales tax holidays, which will save Florida families millions in tax dollars. The Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday creates a sales tax holiday from August 7 through August 9, 2020. The Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday creates a sales tax holiday from May 29 through June 4, 2020 for disaster supplies.

[SB 828: Florida ABLE Program](#) saves the Florida ABLE Program from repeal. The Florida ABLE Program was created in 2015 to encourage and assist individuals and families with tax-free savings and an investment to support individuals with unique abilities in maintaining health, independence, and quality of life. The program serves over 4,000 Florida families and helps families with children with unique abilities to better prepare for the future.

[SB 140: Fireworks](#) provides an exemption from the prohibition of fireworks usage during designated holidays. The designated holidays are Independence Day, July 4; New Year's Eve, December 31; and New Year's Day, January 1.

[SB 348: Florida Kidcare Program](#) removes the lifetime maximum cap of \$1 million on covered expenses for a child enrolled in the Florida Healthy Kids Program.

[SB 1794: Constitutional Amendments](#) increases transparency in the constitutional amendment process by requiring ballots to include: the name of the sponsor; whether the sponsor used out of state petition circulators; whether the Fiscal Impact Estimating Conference statements are positive, negative, or indeterminate; and if there are any possible negative tax and government services impacts. This legislation also clarifies that signatures for a petition must be collected each election cycle, and do not automatically rollover from a ballot initiative from a previous election cycle.

District 17 Highlights

Brevard County COVID-19 Testing Update

The Florida Department of Health in Brevard County is providing appointment-only drive-through COVID-19 testing for any symptomatic individuals who have:

- A fever of 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Those experiencing emergency warning signs such as difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, or bluish lips or face, should immediately seek medical attention. Appointments must be scheduled ahead of time by calling (321) 454-7141. This testing will be provided free of charge.

OMNI Healthcare is also providing Coronavirus drive-through testing at its facility located at 1344 S Apollo Blvd in Melbourne. OMNI testing is available to patients that meet one of the following criteria: a First Responder; over 45 years of age with a chronic illness; over 60 years of age; healthcare workers; Publix or Winn Dixie employees; or have a low grade fever or cough. Patients can register by calling (321) 802-5515. Insurance will be billed for OMNI testing.

Indian River County COVID-19 Update

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital continues to perform drive-through testing for COVID-19, by appointment only. To receive an appointment, individuals who believe they may have symptoms of COVID-19 must first call (772) 226-4846.

Drive-through testing is located in the employee parking lot on the northwest side of Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital has been designated for drive-through testing and entrances from 36th Street and Dr. Hugh McCrystal Drive are clearly marked. Testing is taking place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week.

While the Cleveland Clinic has adequate supplies and medical equipment, they are asking for the community to help source the following supplies to be even better prepared for any potential surge in patients:

- N95 Masks
- Surgical masks
- Isolation gowns
- Eye protection
- Face shields
- Gloves (NO latex)
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfecting wipes

Donations may be dropped off curb-side at Cleveland Clinic Indian River 1000 36th Street, Vero Beach.

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Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 409-2025

Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)
[Yvette Campbell](#)

Tallahassee Office

322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5017

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970

Staff: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)
