



Good Morning!

As Floridians we are accustomed to preparing for and responding to emergencies, like hurricanes or wildfires. This is like nothing we have experienced before, and I am thankful for all of those that have been serving on the front lines throughout this public health emergency.

While there is no playbook for managing a pandemic of this scale within our state, Floridians are successfully "flattening the curve" by practicing social distancing and following local health recommendations. I encourage you to continue your efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Floridians are resilient, and we will get through this together.

For updates regarding COVID-19, please text FLCOVID19 to 888777 or visit the Florida Department of Health's dedicated webpage at [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19).

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Re-Open Florida Task Force

This past week Governor Ron DeSantis organized a Re-Open Florida Task Force. The Task Force will be providing recommendations to the Governor on the most prudent way to safely re-open Florida's economy. This will be a phased-in approach that places an emphasis on Florida's small businesses. The timeline for re-opening has not yet been announced, and remains at the discretion of the Governor with input from state health officials. The Task Force is expected to deliver their recommendations to the Governor by Thursday, April 30th.

Members of the Re-Open Florida Task Force Executive Committee include:

- Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez
- Jimmy Patronis, Florida Chief Financial Officer
- Ashley Moody, Florida Attorney General
- President Bill Galvano, Florida Senate
- Speaker Jose Oliva, Florida House of Representatives
- Senator Wilton Simpson, President-Designate Florida Senate
- Representative Chris Sprowls, Speaker-Designate FL House of Representatives
- Commissioner Richard Corcoran, Commissioner of Education
- Jamal Sowell, President & CEO Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami-Dade County

- Mayor Dale Holness, Broward County
- Mayor David Kerner, Palm Beach County
- John Couris, President & CEO, Tampa General Hospital
- Josh D'Amaro, President, Walt Disney World Resort
- Todd Jones, CEO, Publix Super Markets
- Syd Kitson, Chairman, Board of Governors for the State University System
- Paul Reilly, Chairman & CEO, Raymond James Financial
- Alex Sanchez, President & CEO, Florida Bankers Association
- Eric Silagy, President & CEO, Florida Power & Light Company
- John Sprouls, CEO, Universal Orlando Resort & VP of Universal Parks & Resorts
- Patrick Sunderlin, VP, Global Supply Chain, Lockheed Martin Corporation
- Joe York, President, AT&T Florida and Caribbean

There are also Working Groups within the Task Force that are focused on gathering industry best management practices, and ideas for developing guidelines to safely re-open. The Working Groups were assigned to each of the high, medium and low-risk industries:

- Accommodation, Food, Tourism, Construction, Real Estate, Recreation, Retail and Transportation.
- Administrative, Education, Information & Technology, Manufacturing, Mining, Utilities and Wholesale.
- Agriculture, Finance, Government, Healthcare, Management and Professional Services.

You may provide your input and ideas to the Task Force through the online [Public Comment Portal](#). To view meeting agendas and materials, please visit FLGov.com/covid-19. You may also listen to the meetings on TheFloridaChannel.org.

Florida Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard

To improve transparency the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently announced a new State Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard that is updated daily to reflect the total number of Reemployment Assistance Claims submitted, verified, processed, and paid.

"We understand the challenges to the CONNECT system have only added to the stress on Florida families, and my number one goal is to ensure Floridians in need of reemployment assistance get paid quickly," said Department of Management Services Secretary Jonathan Satter. *"This will start with complete transparency, efficiently streamlining the reemployment assistance process, waiving all red tape and ensuring hurting Florida families have the aid they need to get through COVID-19."*

To access the State Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard [Click Here](#).

SCAM Alert: COVID-19 Robocalls

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody has issued a Consumer Alert warning citizens about an increase in COVID-19 related robocalls. Even before the crisis, robocalls were a continuing problem for many of us. Now that more people are working remotely and responding to an increasing volume of phone calls, some may find it difficult to ignore unknown numbers.

There are recent reports of robocalls that offer everything from COVID-19 treatments and cures to work-from-home schemes. Robocalls often claim that pressing a number will direct the recipient of the call to a live operator or even remove the recipient from the caller's robocall list. However, pressing any button on the phone will likely lead to more robocalls.

Tips to avoid COVID-19 robocall scams include:

- Do not trust Caller ID displays. Spoofing technology allows scammers to change phone displays to impersonate government agencies;
- Ignore robocalls, especially recordings offering vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are trying to sell products not proven to treat or prevent COVID-19;
- Fact-check information. Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before taking action or passing along any messages, check it out with trusted sources; and
- Consider using a call blocking app or device.

Additionally, Floridians should be on the lookout for robocalls or any other messages attempting to exploit COVID-19 stimulus payments, as direct deposits are being made now.

Floridians who already provided banking information to the IRS by virtue of filing their 2018 taxes, have now begun to receive direct deposits and do not need to take action. The IRS will follow up by mailing confirmation notices to beneficiaries within a few weeks after payments are made. Anyone who receives a notice, but does not receive a payment, should contact the IRS immediately.

The IRS will not initiate contact with anyone by email, phone call, text messages or social media to request personal or financial information. The IRS emphasizes that there is no sign-up requirement to receive a payment. You may track your Economic Impact Payment online at [IRS.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment).

Consumers are encouraged to contact phone providers about available call-blocking options. Floridians can report robocalls to the Federal Trade Commission online at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

District 17 Highlights

Indian River Lagoon Restoration

Brevard County recently completed three projects to help improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). The projects included installing ditch bottom denitrification bioreactors, which treats stormwater and removes pollutants before it enters the IRL.

These projects are located at County Line Ditch Road in Oak Hill, Carter Road in Mims, and Fleming Grant Road in Grant. The projects are expected to collectively remove 1,863 pounds of Total Nitrogen and 282.2 pounds of Total Phosphorus per year from entering the Indian River Lagoon.

Funding was provided by Florida Legislature Appropriations, Brevard County's Natural Resources Management Department Stormwater Program, and the Save Our Indian River Lagoon half-cent Sales Tax.

The Indian River Lagoon is a unique and precious resource and I am committed to improving the health of the Indian River Lagoon with the right policies in place to support a comprehensive restoration plan with long-term funding sources. The completion of these projects mark another step toward restoring our treasured waterway.

Distance Learning Extended for Remainder of School Year

Governor Ron DeSantis and Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran recently recommended that all Florida public and private K-12 schools should continue distance learning and keep school campuses closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Both Brevard Public Schools and the School District of Indian River County began distance learning the week of March 30th.

To enhance Distance Learning, the Florida Department of Education has created a webpage with free resources for educators, students and parents, best practices for distance learning, frequently asked questions, and guidance ranging from topics including assessments, IEPs, and instructional hours.

To access these resources, please visit www.fldoe.org/em-response.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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