



Good Morning!

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy. These last two weeks have been life altering for many of us, and I greatly appreciate those who have been on the front lines addressing the needs of our families and communities.

During times of emergency, the Governor of our state is granted powers to manage the crisis. Governor Ron DeSantis has issued seventeen Executive Orders related to COVID-19 including directives for Floridians to stay at home to reduce the spread, as well as airport screenings, statewide closure of restaurants, bars, gyms and fitness centers, and directing the quarantine of individuals from the New York Tri-State Area for 14 days from the time of entry into the State of Florida or for the duration of the person's presence in the State of Florida, whichever is shorter. You can view these orders in their entirety at [FLGov.com/COVID-19](https://www.flgov.com/COVID-19). For a list of all the services or activities deemed essential, please visit [FloridaDisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org)

You may find the most up to date information and guidance on COVID-19, by visiting the Department of Health'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.

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!

Florida Reemployment Assistance

Thank you to those that have reached out regarding issues accessing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) CONNECT site for Reemployment Assistance. I have been in contact with DEO and it is my understanding that the site was overwhelmed with applications, and needs to be improved and made more user friendly. They have informed me that they are actively taking steps to make this process easier and expanding capacity to assist with the unprecedented level of calls being received.

This past week DEO made system upgrades to their unemployment benefits website to increase its processing capacity. The Department is currently training more than 1000 new personnel to provide assistance to those applying for unemployment benefits. DEO is also

working on a mobile app that would allow claimants to access their account on their smart phones and tablets.

To expedite distribution of benefits, Governor DeSantis has directed DEO to lift a requirement that people qualifying for unemployment benefits must wait a week before their first checks are sent. He has also waived job search requirements for claimants. This means that individuals that apply for assistance are not required to submit to DEO information on the number of employers they contact each week.

If your employment has been negatively impacted as a result of the mitigation efforts in Florida to stop the spread of COVID-19, and you would like to see if you are eligible to receive Reemployment Assistance, please visit [FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org). Paper applications are also available. You can download [here](#) and mail to: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, P.O. Box 5350, Tallahassee, FL 32314

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

Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act

As part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748 - CARES Act) that was recently passed, economic recovery rebate checks will be distributed automatically to many individuals and families over the next three weeks, with no action required for most people.

Eligibility criteria includes:

- Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds.
- Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.
- Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child.
- Social Security recipients, who are not required to file a tax return, will automatically receive their rebate checks and do not need to take any additional action.

The CARES Act also included provisions to provide \$600 a week to individuals who are unemployed due to COVID-19. This is an additional payment to individuals who are eligible for state unemployment compensation benefits; and is a new payment available to individuals who are ineligible – those who have already exhausted state benefits in their benefit years, self-employed individuals, independent contractors and others. The process for application and payment of these benefits is currently under development by the U.S. Department of Labor working with the states.

Please visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to learn more, and I will continue to provide information on this as it becomes available.

District 17 Highlights

Brevard County COVID-19 Testing Update

The Florida Department of Health in Brevard County is now providing appointment-only drive-through COVID-19 testing to symptomatic individuals that meet the following criteria:

- Those age 65 and older
- Those with underlying health conditions
- First responders
- Anyone who does not meet the above criteria, but has symptoms and a prescription from a medical doctor

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, and 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 for screening and registration.

It is my understanding that OMNI Healthcare will be opening its Coronavirus drive-through testing facility at 1344 S Apollo Blvd in Melbourne. Patients can be pre-screened and register by calling (321)802-5515.

Health First has also launched an online COVID-19 risk assessment tool. If screening is recommended, the tool will direct patients to a virtual consultation. Visit www.hf.org for more information.

Indian River County COVID-19 Community Resources

In addition to state and federal resources, there are community resources available for those needing assistance. This includes:

Rent Assistance

TC Homeless Services Council | (772) 567-7790 | TCHelpSpot.org

Utilities Assistance

Economic Opportunities Council | (772) 562-4177 | EOCofIRC.net

Florida Power & Light FPL.com/coronavirus

Food Access Assistance

United Against Poverty | (772) 564-9365 | UPIRC.org

TC Food Bank | (772) 489-3034 | StopHunger.org

Food Pantry of IRC | (772) 770-2068 | FoodPantryIRC.org

Pick-up Food Assistance

The Source | (772) 564-0202 | IAmTheSource.org

Salvation Army | (772) 978-0265 | SalvationArmyFlorida.org/VeroBeach

Diapers & Formula Assistance

Buggy Bunch | (772) 226-0467 | TheBuggyBunch.com

CareNet Pregnancy Center | (772) 569-7939 | CareNetIRC.org

Piper Aircraft Now Producing Face Shields

Piper Aircraft Inc, located in Vero Beach, has switched gears and is now making protective gear to help support the growing needs of the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital. Additionally Piper Aircraft will be donating over 1300 3M, N95 approved masks to the hospital.

The Manufacturing Engineering team at Piper Aircraft has designed a prototype face shield with off-the shelf materials such as: plastic, industrial tape, foam and elastic. With approval of the prototype, the team set out to source the necessary materials from wholesale suppliers and create a manufacturing line within the Piper factory. With a designated production area in place, the team has begun making face shields for use by medical personnel.

“This is a critical time for our community, our country and the world. It is a time for action, cooperation and collaboration. As a team, we can make a difference for people in need and directly support those fighting the battle on the front lines of this unprecedented crisis. This is just one small way that we are trying to help,” said James Funk, Piper’s Chief Operations Officer. *“We want healthcare providers, especially, and patients to be safe, therefore it’s vital that we all pull together to help our community, weather this crisis and come out the other side stronger than ever.”*

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



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