



Good Morning!

Floridians continue to do a good job of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing and following local health recommendations. Statewide positivity rates for new COVID-19 cases have remained low as the state has slowly begun to reopen. In working with medical experts, Governor Ron DeSantis has announced Phase 2 of the Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery. Phase 2 went into effect on Friday, June 5, 2020 in all Florida counties excluding Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties at this time.



Phase 2 includes the following provisions with appropriate social distancing:

- Restaurants may operate at full capacity outside. Indoor seating is allowed at 50% capacity. Bar-top seating is also now allowed.
- Bars & Pubs may operate at 50% capacity inside and full capacity outside.
- Retail establishments may operate at full capacity with sanitization protocols.
- Entertainment Businesses (including Movie Theaters, Bowling Alleys, Bars, Pubs, Auditoriums, Arcades and Concert Houses) may open at 50% capacity inside with sanitization protocols.
- Gyms may operate at full capacity with frequent sanitization.
- Personal Services (including massage, acupuncture, tanning and tattoo establishments) may operate while adhering to guidance from the Florida Department of Health.

The following guidance has also been issued to protect our most vulnerable citizens:

- Individuals over the age of 65 or those with underlying medical conditions are strongly encouraged to avoid crowds.
- All individuals are encouraged to avoid congregating in groups of more than 50 people.
- All individuals that work in long-term care facilities should be tested for COVID-19 on a routine basis.

For more information about these guidelines or to view Executive Order 20-139 in its entirety, please visit [FLGov.com/COVID-19](https://www.flgov.com/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!

Gulf Red Snapper Season

Due to our state's good conservation practices, Florida will have a 45-day Gulf red snapper season this year. The 2020 Gulf red snapper recreational season is set to open on June 11th and extend through July 25th for anglers fishing from private recreational vessels.

This season will apply to those fishing from private recreational vessels in Gulf state and federal waters, and to charter vessels that do not have a federal reef fish permit and are limited to fishing in state waters only. The Gulf season for federally-permitted for-hire operations began June 1 and runs through August 1st. Earlier this year, Florida was delegated authority to manage recreational red snapper harvest from private vessels in Gulf federal waters.

"Gulf red snapper is a conservation and management success story for Florida anglers," said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Chairman Robert Spottswood. *"Just a few years ago, a 45-day season for red snapper in both state and federal waters was out of reach. Thank you to all the stakeholders and anglers who helped make this season possible by providing input and sharing information about their fishing trips."*

For more on recreational snapper regulations, visit [MyFWC.com](https://www.myfwc.com).

Florida Forever Land Acquisition

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet recently approved a 17,080-acre land acquisition within the Dickerson Bay/ Bald Point Florida Forever project from The Nature Conservancy. The acquisition of this property, also known as The Bluffs, provides a permanent means of protecting and restoring the estuaries that recreational and commercial fishers rely on for finfish and shellfish species that are the economic lifeblood of the Gulf region.

"Conserving lands for future generations is vital to our state's environmental heritage. Conserving large tracts of land like The Bluffs will ensure environmental protection, as well as economic and recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors, now and into the future," said Governor Ron DeSantis. *"I applaud DEP and The Nature Conservancy for their hard work in finalizing this acquisition of more than 17,000 acres that will conserve over two miles of frontage on the Gulf of Mexico, six miles of frontage on Ochlockonee Bay, and eight and a half miles of frontage on the Ochlockonee River."*

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage. The Florida Legislature approved \$100 million for the Florida Forever Program in the 2020-2021 budget.

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

Governor DeSantis is reviewing the following bills to sign into law:

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 426: Economic Development](#) reduces the local match requirements for communities applying for the Regional Rural Development Grant and Rural Infrastructure Fund while maintaining the same amount of allocating funds to the Rural Revolving Loan Fund. This legislation also redesigns the board of directors, adds additional reporting requirements and sets a sunset provision for the Florida Development Finance Corporation.

[SB 994: Guardianship](#) aims to prevent irresponsible and dishonest guardians from abusing Florida's senior citizens. This legislation provides additional factors for a court to consider when appointing guardians to ensure that a ward's personal and property interests are carefully protected. These additional safeguards were passed in response to a case in Orlando where a guardian signed DNR orders against the wishes of the wards and without the knowledge of the wards' families.

[SB 7012: Mental Health and Substance Abuse](#) requires the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention act as a clearinghouse for collecting and sharing information related to suicide prevention, and enhances suicide prevention resources, education, and support for Florida's veterans and service members.

[House Bill \(HB\) 835: Alzheimer's Disease](#) creates the position of a Dementia Director within the Department of Elderly Affairs to combat Alzheimer's disease in Florida.

[HB 73: Environmental Regulation](#) aims to increase recycling to help meet the state's 75% recycling goal. This legislation also reduces the amount of contaminated recyclable materials.

If you have any concerns about this legislation, or would like to express your support for a certain bill, please [contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#).

District 17 Highlights

I-95 Interchange at Ellis Road Now Open

This past week the I-95 Interchange at Ellis Road opened to traffic, along with the newest segment of St. Johns Heritage Parkway (SJHP). The completion of these projects will reduce congestion and improve access for our residents, businesses and provide a more direct route to the Melbourne International Airport.



The SJHP segment consists of a 2.2-mile, four-lane stretch of new roadway that extends from the north of U.S. 192 to the west of the Interstate 95/Ellis Road Interchange. The SJHP project provides motorists in Palm Bay, West Melbourne, Melbourne and unincorporated Brevard access to a north-south alternative to the congested Minton Road. It is a catalyst for future growth and will also be a critical evacuation route.

This section was completed more than four months in advance to accommodate the opening of the roadway and interchange at the same time. Completion was originally targeted for September 2020. The Ellis Road Interchange cost approximately \$39 million, and the northern segment of the SJHP cost approximately \$11 million.

Indian River State College Receives \$2 million Grant

Recently the US Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross visited Indian River State College (IRSC) to announce that they will be receiving a \$2 million grant to help bolster the region's advanced manufacturing sector.

The grant will fund the construction of a new IRSC worker training facility or advanced manufacturing, welding and Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. The 18,000 square-foot project will allow hands-on learning to fill the immediate skills needs of local manufacturing companies. This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

"Today's grants help ensure that the rebound in Florida is quick and that it encompasses the important industry of advanced manufacturing," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. *"IRSC's planned worker training facility will attract high-quality manufacturing jobs to the Treasure Coast for years to come."*

To learn more about IRSC Industry, Manufacturing and Construction Program please visit IRSC.edu.

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