

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

11/06/2020 Local COVID19 Update

Snapshot: 10/23/20 - 11/05/20
(updated every other Friday)

Positivity during this timeframe: 9%**

Positive tests this timeframe: 47

Total tests this timeframe: 534

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: 6%
(as of 11/05/20)

Median Age in Franklin: 40

Totals Since the Beginning:

Unduplicated positive tests (rapid antigen and PCR): 786

Positive inmates: 322

Positive long term care (staff and residents): 6

Overall hospitalizations: 10

Deaths: 4

Total Tests: 5,957

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 11/06/2020. (See link on page 1)
- Updated County Health Department Message (A Message From Your CHD, page 2)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

In December we will issue our last COVID19 update, however we're still here to help our community navigate through these difficult times. 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.

Get your Flu Shot! The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone six months and older get a flu vaccine every year. This year, the CDC underscores that flu vaccine is more important than ever to protect yourself and the people around you, and to help reduce the strain on health care systems responding to Covid-19. For more information, go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/09/090920-flu-prevention.article.html>

QUARANTINE/ISOLATION FACTS

The quarantine period is important. We need close contacts to a positive case to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their exposure to the positive individual. Getting a test that is negative during the quarantine period does not stop the clock. We have seen many individuals develop infection on the second week of quarantine, so it is really important to stay quarantined for the full 14-day period. Household quarantine can be a little more stretched since it can be very difficult for a positive individual to properly isolate from everyone else. If you live in the same household as a positive case unable to properly isolate, you need to quarantine while the person is sick and once this individual is no longer infectious, that's when your quarantine 14 period will start.

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 reinfected 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-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.floridaforgottencoast.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.floridahealth.gov) and follow on Social Media:

Florida Department of Health: [Twitter @HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) -or- [Facebook Florida Department of Health \(DOH\)](https://www.facebook.com/floridahealth)

Franklin County Florida Emergency Management: [Facebook Franklin County Florida Emergency Management](https://www.facebook.com/franklincountyem)

Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners: [Facebook Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners](https://www.facebook.com/gulf-franklin-county-community-health-improvement-partners)