



# WEEKLY COVID-19 IMPACT UPDATE

"The Florida House Speaker's Office is monitoring the coronavirus situation and will be sending this weekly newsletter as a summation of the week's data and as a resource - with links to raw and compiled data - to assist you in keeping your constituents informed. This, along with information located at [flidahousemedia.gov/COVID-19](http://flidahousemedia.gov/COVID-19) will help all of us do our part to lead our state to health."

- House Speaker Jose R. Oliva

## LATEST DATA

Current as of April 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. | Sources linked beneath data.

### CASES IN THE UNITED STATES

**277,607**

<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/coronavirus/>

### DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES

**7,406**

<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/coronavirus/>

### MORTALITY RATE IN THE UNITED STATES

**2.67%**

<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/coronavirus/>

### % OF HOSPITAL BEDS AVAILABLE IN FLORIDA

**44.9%**

[Agency for Healthcare Administration Census](#)

**% OF TOTAL HOSPITAL BEDS  
STILL AVAILABLE IN HARDEST HIT  
COUNTIES  
BROWARD**

**44.4%**

[Agency for Healthcare Administration Census](#)

**% OF TOTAL HOSPITAL BEDS  
STILL AVAILABLE IN HARDEST HIT  
COUNTIES  
MIAMI DADE**

**41.8%**

[Agency for Healthcare Administration Census](#)

**% OF TOTAL HOSPITAL BEDS  
STILL AVAILABLE IN HARDEST HIT  
COUNTIES  
PALM BEACH**

**46%**

[Agency for Healthcare Administration Census](#)

**% OF TOTAL HOSPITAL BEDS  
STILL AVAILABLE IN HARDEST HIT  
COUNTIES  
ORANGE**

**43.5%**

[Agency for Healthcare Administration Census](#)

**CONFIRMED CASES  
IN FLORIDA**

**10,268**

<https://www.realclearpolitics.com/coronavirus/>

**CONFIRMED POSITIVE AS A % OF  
POPULATION IN FLORIDA**

**.048%**

[Based on population estimate from census.gov/quickfacts/FL](#)

**NEW CASES IN FLORIDA OVER  
THE PRIOR DAY**

**340 LESS  
(1,300 4/2 - 960 4/3)**

[Florida Health Data Dashboard](#)

**NUMBER OF FLORIDIANS TESTED  
FOR COVID-19**

**91,755**

[COVID-19 Daily Report](#)

**PERCENTAGE OF FLORIDIANS  
TESTED W/ POSITIVE RESULTS**

**10.4%**

[Calculated from COVID-19 Daily Report](#)

**PERCENTAGE OF FLORIDIANS  
TESTED W/ NEGATIVE RESULTS**

**89.5%**

[Calculated from COVID-19 Daily Report](#)

**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

## DATA SOURCES

[Total Cases](#)  
[Total U.S. Deaths](#)  
[Florida Department of Health](#)  
[Latest Florida Data](#)  
[COVID 19 Resource Kit](#)  
[CDC U.S. Data](#)  
[CDC U.S. Testing Data](#)  
[Sortable list of world infections and other data](#)

## DATA SOURCES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[DOH Twitter](#)  
[DOH Facebook](#)

[CDC Twitter](#)  
[CDC Facebook](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES

[Re-employment assistance](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[Small business loans](#)  
[Price-gouging hotline](#)  
[Tax relief and economic impact direct payments](#)  
[School campus closures](#)  
[Free learning resources for families](#)  
[Free meals for kids and teens](#)

## NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### [\*\*Don't Believe the COVID-19 Models\*\*](#)

...Epidemiologists routinely turn to models to predict the progression of an infectious disease. Fighting public suspicion of these models is as old as modern epidemiology, which traces its origins back to John Snow's famous cholera maps in 1854. Those maps proved, for the first time, that London's terrible affliction was spreading through crystal-clear fresh water that came out of pumps, not the city's foul-smelling air. Many people didn't believe Snow, because they lived in a world without a clear understanding of germ theory and only the most rudimentary microscopes.

In our time, however, the problem is sometimes that people believe epidemiologists, and then get mad when their models aren't crystal balls. Take the United Kingdom's drastic COVID-19 policy U-turn. A few weeks ago, the U.K. had almost no social-isolation measures in place, and according to some reports, the government planned to [let the virus run its course](#) through the population, with the exception of the elderly, who were to be kept indoors. The idea was to let enough people get sick and recover from the mild version of the disease, to create "herd immunity"...

### [\*\*Low U.S. Death Rate Means Mitigation Efforts Are Working\*\*](#)

...but the fairest test of the success of the Trump administration would be to compare the U.S. fatality rate to that of other developed countries on the same date. Here is the comparison:

- China: 81,554 cases, 3,312 fatalities, for a rate of 4.06%

- Italy: 105,792 cases, 12,428 fatalities, for a rate of 11.7%
- Germany: 74,508 cases, 821 fatalities, for a rate of 1.1%
- UK: 29,474 cases, 1,789 fatalities, for a rate of 7.95%
- South Korea: 9,887 cases, 165 fatalities, for a rate of 1.67%
- Switzerland: 17,137 cases, 461 fatalities, for a rate of 2.69%

Thus, the U.S. fatality rate ranks among the lowest of any developed country, bettered only by Germany and South Korea, and well ahead of China, Italy, Spain, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

In addition, the number of “cases” in the United States does not reflect the total number of people who have contracted the coronavirus but remain asymptomatic and have not sought testing.

It’s important to note that the U.S. government has consistently asked those without symptoms not to seek testing, because the priority has been to identify people who may need hospitalization...

### **New York Doctor's Antidote to Fear of COVID-19**

On Sunday, a friend forwarded me a [link to a video](#) made by a New York City doctor, David Price. I encourage everyone to watch the video. From his front-line experience in the nation’s coronavirus hot spot, Dr. Price gives us sound advice, makes the disease a little less scary, and gives us hope by empowering us. He helps put things into perspective as we weigh the human costs of the disease and our response.

What makes the video so powerful is that Dr. Price is one of the heroes treating COVID-19 patients almost exclusively, and he’s not scared. Instead, he’s confident he will not catch the disease because he knows how to prevent it.

Price’s advice:...

### **Ending COVID**

The biopharmaceutical industry will be able to make a Covid-19 vaccine—probably a few of them—using various existing vaccine technologies. But many people worry that Covid-19 will mutate and evade our vaccines, as the flu virus does each season. Covid-19 is fundamentally different from flu viruses, though, in ways that will allow our first-generation vaccines to hold up well. To the extent that Covid does mutate, it’s likely to do so much more slowly than the flu virus does, buying us time to create new and improved vaccines.

Every virus has a genome composed of genetic material (either RNA or DNA) that encodes instructions for replicating the virus. When a virus infects a cell, it accesses machinery for making copies of its genomic instructions and follows those instructions to make viral proteins that assemble, with copies of the instructions, to form more viruses (which then pop out of the cell to infect new cells, either in the same host or in someone new).

There is a critical difference between coronaviruses and flu. The novel coronavirus genome is made of one long strand of genetic code. This makes it an “unsegmented” virus—like a set of instructions that fit on a single page. The flu virus has eight genomic segments, so its code fits on eight “pages.” That’s not common for viruses, and it gives the flu a special ability. Because the major parts of the flu virus are described on separate pages (segments) of its genome, when two different flu viruses infect the same cell, they can swap pages...

### **Anti-malaria Drug Helps Speed Up Recovery of Coronavirus Patients: Study**

The antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine has shown promise in treating the coronavirus – helping to speed up the recovery of a small number of patients suffering a mild form of the illness, according to a report.

In a study published online this week, Chinese researchers found that patients who were administered the drug saw their cough, fever and pneumonia go away faster than in a group that did not receive it, according to the New York Times.

The illness also appeared less likely to become severe among those who were treated with hydroxychloroquine, according to the small study posted on the preprint server medRxiv before undergoing peer review...

## BUDGET IMPACT

**Sales tax collections for January are up \$48.6 million above the estimate for the month.**

This number does not reflect the expected losses associated with the onset of and response to COVID-19. The data for March should begin to show the impacts to revenue that could spur a formal adjustment to estimates.

[Florida Data Dashboard](#)

[U.S. Data Dashboard](#)

[Global Data Dashboard](#)