A Message from the Florida Chamber

NATIONAL COVID-19 LEGAL PROTECTIONS NEEDED FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES

As Congress continues its dialogue over potential "Phase Four" coronavirus legislation, Senate Leader Mitch McConnel is pushing for legal protections for job creators. The measure would allow defendants to only be held liable for gross negligence and for not making reasonable efforts to comply with public health guidelines. Further, it would allow federal courts to have jurisdiction over such cases. The legislation also places a cap on damages, heightens pleading standards, and sets a clear-and-convincing burden of proof. Florida has the 5th worst legal climate in America and this common-sense protection is important.

A **recent national survey** shows strong bipartisan support for coronavirus related legal protections – with 85% supporting a law that would protect business from frivolous lawsuits. As trial lawyers join the pursuit of coronavirus related lawsuits, it's pertinent that Florida's business community unites for Chamber-backed reform and leans in on our elected officials to pass these protections.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has served as the state resource for information on hospital bed capacity. The Agency's **Hospital Capacity Dashboard** has recently been updated to show total hospitalizations with a primary diagnosis of COVID by county, and overall bed capacity and ICU bed capacity by each individual hospital facility within each county. This dashboard is constantly updated numerous times throughout the day, and we encourage you to visit it directly to use as a resource for understanding the impact of the virus on health care resources available in your community. While the hysteria over hospital capacity is reaching unhealthy levels, the truth is the world has now seen over 600,000 COVID-19 related deaths and we need to remember that wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing and other safety protocols are our collective responsibility and the best way to protect hospital capacity is to stop the spread in the first place. Mandates and laws don't cause people to wear masks but businesses, including many chamber members, who are leading by example are, in fact, making a difference and I'm asking you to keep it up. I'm confident our Surgeon General will reinforce this point on our membership Zoom call this morning just as Dr. Fauci did on Friday morning's US Chamber live stream.

It is worth noting that the state of Florida has earned a current data quality grade of "A" from The COVID Tracking Project at covidtracking.com, which is among the highest earned by any U.S. state or territory. To learn more about Florida's grade from this national resource and view some of the historic trends, you can visit: **https://covidtracking.com/data/state/florida**

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS AT DAY 140 IN FLORIDA:

Chamber Foundation **Chief Economist Dr. Jerry Parrish** and our research team continue to analyze COVID-19 data and report on it daily on **www.TheFloridaScorecard.org**.

County	COVID-19 Hospitalizations	Adult ICU Census	Available Adult ICU	Available Adult ICU%	Total AdultICU Capacity	Pediatric ICU Census	Available Pediatric ICU	Available Pediatric ICU%	Total Pediatric ICU Capacity
Grand Total	9,363	5,035	1,217	19.5%	6,252	364	256	41.3%	620
ALACHUA	**117**	**275**	**33**	**10.7%**	**308**	**27**	**20**	**42.6%**	**47**
BAKER	33	-	-		-	-	-		-
BAY	**79**	**61**	**19**	**23.8%**	**80**	-	**4**	**100.0%**	**4**
BRADFORD	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
BREVARD	**136**	**121**	**47**	**28.0%**	**168**	-	-		-
BROWARD	1,240	459	58	11.2%	517	28	38	57.6%	66
CALHOUN	**1**	-	-		-	-	-		-
CHARLOTTE	45	44	5	10.2%	49	-	-		-
CITRUS	**30**	**37**	**3**	**7.5%**	**40**	-	-		-
CLAY	84	40	2	4.8%	42	1	5	83.3%	6
COLLIER	**183**	**58**	**23**	**28.4%**	**81**	-	-		-
COLUMBIA	25	15	2	11.8%	17	-	-		-
DESOTO	**4**	**4**	**4**	**50.0%**	**8**	-	-		-
DUVAL	521	340	101	22.9%	441	19	21	52.5%	40
ESCAMBIA	**198**	**109**	**9**	**7.6%**	**118**	**4**	**12**	**75.0%**	**16**
FLAGLER	19	15	3	16.7%	18	-	-		-
FRANKLIN	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
GADSDEN	5	-	-		-	-	-		-
GULF	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
HARDEE	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
HENDRY	**9**	-	-		-	-	-		-
HERNANDO	83	54	9	14.3%	63	-	-		-
HIGHLANDS	**61**	**25**	**3**	**10.7%**	**28**	-	-		-
HILLSBOROUGH	555	307	68	18.1%	375	25	16	39.0%	41
HOLMES	**2**	-	-		-	-	-		-
INDIAN RIVER	23	17	16	48.5%	33	-	-		-
JACKSON	**29**	**19**	**3**	**13.6%**	**22**	-	-		-
LAKE	123	67	37	35.6%	104	-	-		-
LEE	**252**	**132**	**9**	**6.4%**	**141**	**67**	**19**	**22.1%**	**86**
LEON	78	56	16	22.2%	72	3	6	66.7%	9
MADISON	**1**	-	-		-	-	-		-
MANATEE	112	52	14	21.2%	66	-	-		-
MARION	**114**	**79**	**7**	**8.1%**	**86**	-	-		-
MARTIN	48	13	24	64.9%	37	-	-		-
MIAMI-DADE	**2,008**	**844**	**255**	**23.2%**	**1,099**	**70**	**32**	**31.4%**	**102**
MONROE	16	9	1	10.0%	10	-	-		-
NASSAU	**6**	**8**	-	**0.0%**	**8**	-	-		-
OKALOOSA	43	47	7	13.0%	54	-	-		-
OKEECHOBEE	**21**	**8**	-	**0.0%**	**8**	-	-		-
ORANGE	612	294	81	21.6%	375	65	47	42.0%	112
OSCEOLA	**199**	**90**	**39**	**30.2%**	**129**	-	**6**	**100.0%**	**6**
PALM BEACH	618	319	102	24.2%	421	13	19	59.4%	32
PASCO	**131**	**113**	**12**	**9.6%**	**125**	-	-		-
PINELLAS	466	258	40	13.4%	298	37	5	11.9%	42
POLK	**300**	**137**	**28**	**17.0%**	**165**	-	-		-
PUTNAM	15	10	-	0.0%	10	-	-		-
SANTA ROSA	**21**	**15**	**8**	**34.8%**	**23**	-	-		-
SARASOTA	158	82	32	28.1%	114	-	-		-
SEMINOLE	**171**	**69**	**4**	**5.5%**	**73**	-	-		-
ST. JOHNS	36	23	21	47.7%	44	-	-		-
ST. LUCIE	**138**	**83**	**7**	**7.8%**	**90**	**4**	**2**	**33.3%**	**6**
SUMTER	29	33	7	17.5%	40	-	-		-
SUWANNEE	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
TAYLOR	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
UNION	-	-	-		-	-	-		-
VOLUSIA	155	182	47	20.5%	229	1	4	80.0%	5
WALTON	**7**	**12**	**11**	**47.8%**	**23**	-	-		-
WASHINGTON	3	-	-		-	-	-		-

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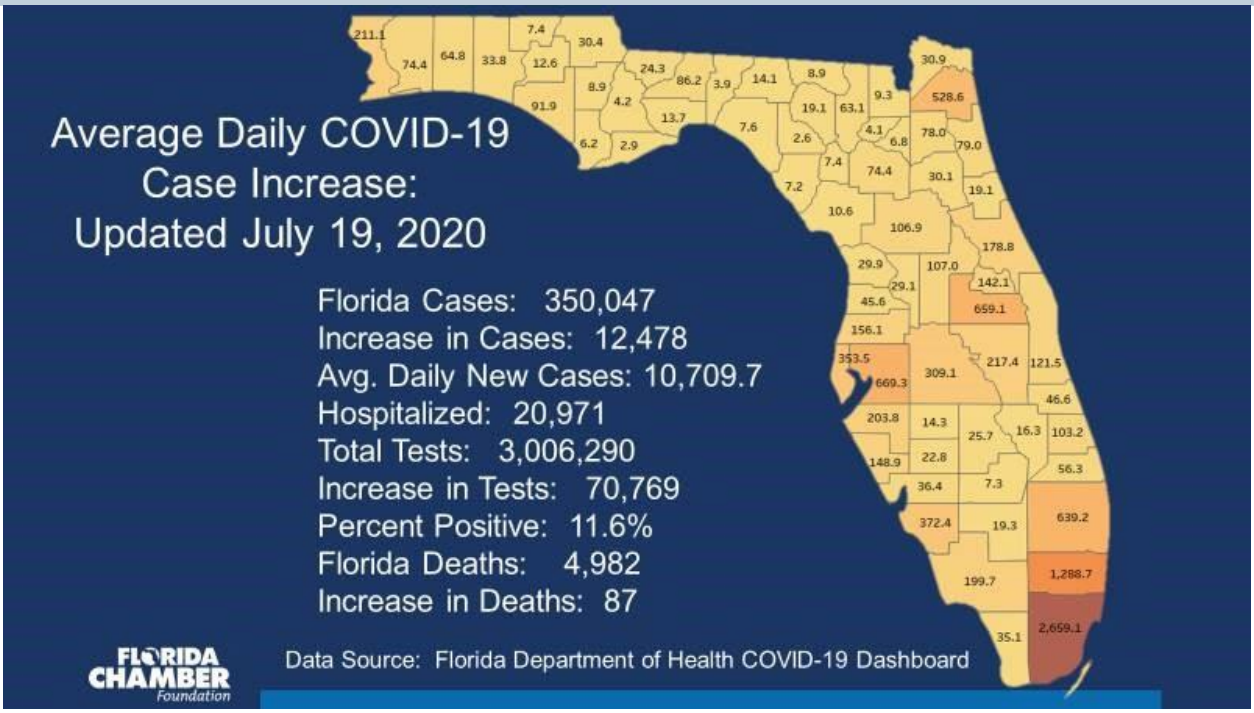

Data Source: **Florida Department of Health's COVID-19 Dashboard**

Know how your county is trending! Our **COVID-19 County Level Tracker** is free and available 24-7, and is based on the latest data available.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

"I have been in some kind of fight -- for freedom, equality, basic human rights - for nearly my entire life. I have never faced a fight quite like the one I have now." – John Lewis

After a six-month battle with cancer and a lifetime dedicated to battling for civil rights, John Lewis passed away on Friday, July 17 at age 80. Lewis championed human rights in a struggle lasting through the heights of the civil rights era to current movements for social justice. The notorious 1965 march in Selma, Alabama left Lewis the victim of systemic violence, but launched him toward a career-long fight for equality and an eternal legacy of purpose. Known as the "Conscience of Congress," Lewis is an example of the power and the potential of standing up for what is right. From Freedom Riders to U.S. Congress, Lewis guided the fight to reconcile and combat the inequalities of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It is with heavy hearts that we face his death, but

with renewed purpose that we continue championing our mission of prosperity. As he said of young protesters taking to the streets, “There will be no turning back.”

FLORIDA CHAMBER FOUNDATION TURNS WORDS INTO ACTION ON ENDING INEQUALITY – HAVE YOU REGISTERED TO BE A PART OF THE FIVE PART WEBINAR SERIES?

Over the next 100 days, the Florida Chamber Foundation is hosting a five-part business leaders webinar series on racial, social and equality gaps in Florida and we invite you and your management team to participate. As Florida continues to manage through the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever it is important to identify ways for Florida's business community to continue leading the way to break the cycle of generational poverty by focusing on creating opportunities for all Floridians. Improving diversity, ending racism and guaranteeing equity of opportunity are at the center of our work.

Registration for the Florida Chamber Foundation’s five-part webinar series is below:
Ending Inequality of Opportunity in Florida: July 22 10:00 a.m. – Noon ET

Please contact **Michael Williams**, Director of our Prosperity Initiative for more information at **mwilliams@flfoundation.org**

DAILY SAFETY TIP

PROVIDED BY THE FLORIDA CHAMBER SAFETY COUNCIL

www.flchambersafety.com

Use technology to meet with co-workers –
Instead of popping by someone’s office for a quick question or meeting, consider calling or emailing them first. When practical, use video conferencing for longer meetings where presentations can be video shared. Ultimately, if physical attendance is required for a meeting, make sure the room is large enough to encourage social distancing of 6 feet apart between chairs. Disinfect table and chairs before the meeting and also once the meeting is complete.

For more information on keeping your workers safe go to **www.flchambersafety.com/resources** or contact Diego Sanchez, Senior Safety Manager at **dsanchez@flchamber.com**

MASK ORDERS CONTINUE TO COVER MORE FLORIDIANS

As you know, the **Florida Chamber Litigation and Regulatory Reform Center** has been tracking local emergency ordinances from the very beginning of this pandemic. Over the last few days, we have seen roughly ten new local ordinances, mostly in small to mid-sized cities in more rural counties. Though well-meaning and important, local ordinances can be overboard. For example, one of these ordinances dictated the closure of businesses only after an employee receives a positive test. Since there can be delays in receiving test results, ordinances like this could force businesses to close

after the threat of exposure is gone. The Florida Chamber has been in touch with many local officials and expects to see more narrowly tailored orders in the days ahead. For more information on mask mandates, email Andrew Wiggins at **awiggins@flchamber.com**.

As Florida is continuing to face many challenges, it is more important than ever that we unite business for good. Please continue to read and share this update with your executive team, family and friends, and encourage them to **sign-up** to receive their personal copy. We are stronger together.

My best,

Mark Wilson
President & CEO

Economic Injury Disaster Loan Changes, PPP and Federal Relief Updates

Main Street Lending Program Expands to Nonprofits; Other Federal Relief Options

Late last week, the Federal Reserve Board announced an expansion of the Main Street Lending Program to certain nonprofits, including educational institutions, hospitals and social service organizations. The minimum employment threshold for nonprofits is 10 employees and they must have been in operation for more than 5 years. Additionally, the organization must be tax-exempt and a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19). For additional details, **click here.**

Businesses that are still looking at relief options are able to apply for the **Paycheck Protection Program** through August 8, the **Economic Injury Disaster Loan** or **Main Street Lending Program**. The Paycheck Protection Program may offer loan forgiveness, whereas EIDL and the Main Street Lending Program are loans.

Top Stories

- **Marco Rubio touts success of Paycheck Protection Program**
- **Economy week ahead: Home sales and weekly jobless claims**
- **Congress to return with stimulus front and center**
- **Top health officials have changed their minds about face mask guidance—but for good reason**
- **Hospitals ask for expedited shipments of Remdesivir**

For the 5th day in a row, Florida reports more than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases
Read more **here**.

Dow Jones
Industrial Average ended trading 62.76 points lower, or 0.23% at 26,671.95. The S&P

Spain
Announced new measures amid concerns over new

Florida's self-swab pilot program kicks off; residents encouraged to register online
Read more **here.**

Florida jobless rate drops in June as businesses reopen
Read more **here.**

500 finished 0.28% higher and the Nasdaq Composite closed 0.28% higher.

Lyft
Will give 60,000 vehicle partitions to its most-active drivers and sell them to other drivers beginning later this summer in response to the pandemic.

Home Depot
Will require customers to wear masks in stores starting Wednesday.

outbreaks in parts of the country.

Philippines
Foreigners with long-term visas could begin entering the country in August.

Japan
Asked the U.S. military to quarantine all of its personnel arriving at American bases in Japan for two weeks and then test them for the coronavirus.

National and global updates brought to you by the Florida Chamber in partnership with Hill+Knowlton Strategies.