



The Governor held his daily Press Conference via Facebook Live today, March 27, 2020, in it he shared:

### **Governor's Remarks**

- Federal government following Florida's lead on targeting response and restrictions to impacted metropolitan areas
- New York 14 day isolation order fully implemented
  - Texas did recently as well
- Residents in the panhandle asked for something similar
  - Governor will be adding to the New York executive order people coming from Louisiana
    - Will add check points on the road
    - Will not apply to commercial transportation for supplies coming into the state
- Suspend vacation rentals for new stays for two weeks
- Priority to expand testing particular in the South Florida counties so various does not get seated in these counties
- Beefing up supplies, as soon as the State gets them they push them out
- Direct DCF to submit a federal waiver to temporarily increase SNAP benefits amounts that will increase the benefits a family of four \$449 to \$509 a month
- Delay tax filing deadline for property (to April 15<sup>th</sup>) and sales and use tax (to April 30<sup>th</sup>) for businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19
- Hialeah hospital charging people \$150 for testing, that is unacceptable
  - Asking Attorney General Moody to investigate for price gouging
- Hearing from Fish & Wildlife Commission and local government that people are not adhering to social distancing particularly on the water
  - FWC must issue an emergency order to follow social distancing requirements on the water
- Belief that the Coronavirus has been here, but the testing is bringing more to light
- Always monitoring available hospital beds
  - Over 2000 adult ICU beds available, 234 pediatric ICU beds
- Theory about flattening the curve is that the hospital system is better able to handle the amount of people that are infected
- One of the main points of our response has been to protect the elderly and those with compromised immune system
  - Surgeon General has issued an advisory opinion for these populations to stay at home
- Spoke to President yesterday and he really wants to help Florida

### **Reporter Questions**

- Where will check points be?
  - Likely I-10 and other entry ways to show we are serious about fewer people entering the state

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- Request from labor group asking to extend state unemployment benefits from 12-26 weeks
  - Have not looked at it yet, but Governor will. He has removed job search requirements, he wants to do things to make things more streamlined so they can get relief in their pockets. Governor's staff and legislative staff looking at federal relief bills to see how that impacts the State of Florida
- How many healthcare workers are impacted by COVID-19 and how is it impacting the workforce?
  - A lot of test sites have a lot of workers coming through, but a lot of them coming through. He doesn't think it's a lot but obviously the concern about a worker being infected and requiring self-isolating would have wide-ranging impacts. This is why a priority has been obtaining PPE.
- Miami fire fighter has tested positive, is there a push to get fire fighters' results expedited?
  - Governor had conversations of other opportunities to do high throughput testing with other entities beyond Quest and traditional diagnostic tests.
- Chief Justice Canady put out order that is causing confusion about whether law enforcement can do evictions and whether there are conversations about rent?
  - Governor supports moratorium on evictions, if the Chief Justice's order isn't clear maybe he needs to act
- Correctional officers that are being forced to use sick leave?
  - Not sure ask Secretary Inch
- When will unemployment program be at full capacity?
  - If you look at nationwide spikes in jobless claims, this has been the biggest spike in claims in US history. We're working on getting more people in there, but its not anything that even adequacy for the Great Recession would have anticipated.
- Any plans to require testing for long-term care facilities?
  - We want to do surveillance testing to get good data. Hope is as testing capacity comes online we can better address this.