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Governor Ron DeSantis held a press conference, May 14<sup>th</sup> in Doral with Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Broward County Mayor Dale Holness and City of Doral Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez.

## Governor's Remarks

- Re-opening for rest of the State
  - Two weeks ago, I announced Florida would take strategic steps to re-open since mitigation steps we had taken worked
    - Hospitals had more capacity six weeks into the pandemic than they did before the pandemic
  - We have a responsibility to take a step-by-step approach driven by data not panic
  - The previous announcement applied to 64 of the 67 counties because the tri-county area needed more time to prepare
  - County leaders put together plans to re-open that they have brought to me
  - Since we went to Phase One of the re-opening in the last two weeks, statewide percentage of positive has ranged 1.8-5.4%
  - For Phase One counties, the percentage average was 2.5%
    - ICU census has decreased
    - Total individuals on ventilators decreased 32%
- Re-opening for Broward and Dade
  - We have worked closely with the county mayors and administrators
  - **I have signed an executive order to move Broward and Dade into Phase One honoring their requests to enter on Monday**
  - Phase One - we did not do everything the President said we could do
  - Miami and Broward will be in a similar position to the rest of the State in terms of what they are permitted to do in the re-opening
  - Miami
    - Percent positive test results have been under 10% for the last two weeks except for yesterday because of the prison outbreak in Homestead
    - 68 patients on ventilators as of last night
  - Broward
    - Influenza and Covid symptoms down
    - Percentage positive down to 4.4%
    - ICU-44% decrease
    - Ventilator patients- 56% decrease
  - Both counties have flattened the curve
  - Dade and Broward both submitted plans and they won't have identical approaches in each respect

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- Makes sense because the two counties are very diverse from each other, but both are collaborating though throughout
- Working together with locals
  - Worked with Mayor Holness to address the cases around the cruise liners and the National Guard center in Broward, which is the most successful testing site in the state if not the country
  - Our approach has always been bottom-up which has worked in our efforts to tailor restrictions to localities
- Data
  - At this point, we are able to pinpoint upticks in positive rates to specific reasons
  - Sometimes upticks occur with opening new test sites, sometimes at a prison
  - Long-term care facilities are still our immediate and long-term focus
    - Focusing on reducing outbreaks at these facilities
    - We are sending out PPE and testing with the national guard
    - Making sure all workers are availing themselves to the testing facility.

### **Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami-Dade County**

- Thank you to the Governor for your cooperation
- Thank you to Broward County Mayor Holness and County Administrator Bertha Henry
- Here to discuss Phase One
  - 182 page new guidebook Miami will adopt
- Governor and his team has fast-tracked their review to make sure they are
- Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, businesses previously deemed non-essential will be able to open
- Residents and our leaders have flattened the curve allowing us to re-open
- Our guide has input from all health experts
- Miami's new system will have a color-coded system to guide our actions
- We were originally in red and recently moved to orange with parks re-opening
- Monday we will move to the Yellow phase
  - We are not opening spas, bars, gyms, movie theaters, massage parlors or beaches
  - Guide available yesterday
    - **Accessible here:**  
<https://www.miamidade.gov/information/library/new-normal.pdf>
- For individuals remember, don't touch eyes, nose or mouth, and use protective measures
- Businesses must mark spaces and clean regularly
- Discipline and self-restraint will be key to a successful recovery
- We will continue to expand testing
- We will shutdown any business that does not comply

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- Our daily monitoring of cases and hospital capacity will guide whether we stay in yellow or move back to orange or red
- You are still safer at home though

### **Mayor Dale Holness, Broward County**

- Thank you to the Governor and your team for being collaborative
  - Same to you Mayor Gimenez
- We are a region and we must continue to work at this in a collaborative measure
- Thank you to Ms. Henry and the mayors of Broward, at the on-set we were not together, but we have all since realized to make sure we are all working together
  - The mayors' consensus is that we do open May 18<sup>th</sup>
- We will allow HOAs to have their gyms open with restrictions
- We agree we will wait until at least the 26<sup>th</sup> to open beaches, talking to Mayor Gimenez we agree we need to open the beaches together
- We have been down to as low as 21 positive tests in Broward

### **Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, City of Doral**

- Thank you to our state legislators and thank you to Mayor Gimenez for keeping us all informed
- As we go through the new normal, it is important to do it the right way
- We understand with the downward trend, it is crucial to get the re-opening done
- We won't be in the normal, we instead are moving to the new normal

### **Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez**

- This has been a tremendous crisis that is two-fold, one of public health, one of economy
- We are eager to see people get back to work, but we have to do it smart, safe and step-by-step
- Only successful because of our work with the local mayors

### **Governor DeSantis**

- Our testing sites will continue in Broward and Dade, we are continuing to add sites in Phase One,
- Continue to have National Guard teams at long-term care facilities
- Re-employment assistance
  - Paid out \$1.8 billion since the start of the virus
  - 53,575 new unique claimants processed this week
  - 356,760 payments made this week
- We have all of these reports with cases, which are important to know, but we have to recognize that our mitigation efforts have impacted those beyond just those that were or knew people infected
- As we get back, we need to be able to enable individuals to live life to the fullest

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## Governor's Press Questions

- Restaurants capacity
  - We will put out tomorrow our next steps, we will make an announcement in Jacksonville.
- Assisted Living Facilities
  - Important to staff to avail themselves to testing at all of our testing sites. To ALF's send your staff every two weeks. We are sending teams in, but we have over 4,000 facilities in Florida. I just spoke this morning to the White House; we will work more to get more options for testing. We have thousands of facilities in Florida that don't have a single case. Implore facilities to make sure the staff is getting tested, they will be a priority. Our next step plan will be unveiled covering what we will further do to
- Moratorium on foreclosures and evictions
  - Extended until June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Gyms
  - We will make an announcement tomorrow, but we understand that individuals should be able to have access to gyms to be healthier. This was one of the reasons I always promoted outdoor activity. The fact is outdoors is our friend, virus transmission is friendlier indoors. There are zero people in the UF hospital in the Villages now.
- Phase One to Phase Two
  - Phase Two is not that much different than what we are doing now. One thing is allowing childcare and child activities that we have never prohibited. We will look close at bars.
- Local approach
  - We have a diverse state, what Mayor Gimenez is dealing with is different than what is happening in Jacksonville and the panhandle. We will continue this localized approach in rolling out easing of restrictions.
- Florida Chamber
  - I don't know what they are saying, I have not had conversations with the Chamber about going to Phase Two. But our state has continued to push the economy forward in safe ways as strong as we could while this has been going on. On Monday we will have a nice unveiling of interchanges. Our current openings have started from a place that was more open than some of the others now entering Phase Two.
- Job Search
  - We waived the requirement, depending on how things progress, we will determine what the appropriate thing to do is. If no one is hiring, it is not realistic.