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Governor Ron DeSantis held a roundtable and an afternoon press conference, May 2nd at OhSoooJazzy hair salon in Orange County to discuss next steps for re-opening hair salons in the upcoming days.

Governor Ron DeSantis

- Mayor Demings reached out about hair and nail salons
- Truly kudos to Orange County for all the work you did to mitigate the spread
- No one thought that Orlando would be as minimally impacted as it has been

Orange County Health Department

- Thank you for the measured approaches you have taken throughout the process

Mike, Small Business

- Member of the taskforce
- Each of the licensed stylists are required to adhere to enhanced safety measures
- Created video for staff on safety procedures
- One client at a time, no double booking
- Asking no one to touch product
- Removed candy jars
- Upgraded cleaning procedures
- Focus on being brilliant at the basics

Nadine Armstrong-Tarpley., Owner, OhShooJazzy Hair Salon

- We have taken every measure
- Provided masks for stylists and have others for clients
- We want to not only keep our staff safe, but also
- We follow sanitation standards to get a license, we will uphold higher standards to keep the license

John A. Henry, Owner J. Henry's Barber Shop

- This is second nature to us, the advice we are getting helps us to get to a higher level
- We want to continue to govern ourselves accordingly
- Grants and support from the government will be important to help off-set the reduced capacity

Mayor Jerry Demings, Orange County

- After listening to some of the impassioned pleas, barbers and hair salon owners convinced me they can open in a safe manner
- Taking a regional approach working with county chairs in surrounding counties



Governor DeSantis

- My direction to the taskforce was to re-frame from essential and non-essential to low-risk and high-risk
- The goal is to identify the high-risks and develop protocols on mitigating risk

Dr. George Ralls, Orlando Health

- Ways to mitigate risk
 - Hair salons have built in space and opportunities
 - Scheduling opportunities to mitigate number of
 - Additional cleaning and sanitation
- Important to point out to patrons that all community members have a social responsibility to practice good hygiene and distance practices

Dialogue

- Gov DeSantis- is it reasonable to expect clients and staff to wear masks?
 - Mike- Yes, especially since masks are becoming more commonplace and accessible for others. With the power of yelp and other online reviews, one bad review is crippling so we will.
- Gov DeSantis- was there any spread from a salon in Central Florida
 - Health Department Rep- none that we know of.
- Ms. Armstrong-Tarpley- we believe barber shops are cornerstones of communities and we don't want to set an example of going to homes
- Gov DeSantis- how do you manage the social dynamic of folks hanging out at the barber shop?
 - Mr. Henry- We are doing a sign in list where we can text people when it's their time.
 - Mike- May require people to come individually and stick to the scheduling process. Shifts work and scheduling will be important.
- Gov DeSantis- recognizing that different age groups are impacted differently, is there a need to do something special for seniors?
 - Ms. Armstrong-Tarpley- may be worth exploring opening on days typically closed just for seniors. For us its not just the money, these clients are family. We want to serve them in a uniquely tailored way. We would welcome any one with pre-existing conditions on those days, and recognizing seniors who feel the need to come at those times.
 - Mike- This can be done through thoughtful scheduling. Salons are already set up to be six feet apart often times. We are all willing to open on days off to account for these populations.

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- Gov DeSantis- this has been helpful and we can continue to work with the cosmetology and barber boards to get to a yes at this point. Our mantra is safe, strong, step-by-step. Having a vibrant economy is crucial to ensuring we have the resources to support an adequate healthcare system. We want you all to be solvent again. But beyond that, this takes a step towards restoring confidence.
- Mr. Henry- Small business owners have not heard anything back from PPP loans and other programs but trying to hold things together has been difficult on our own. Many of my fellow owners would continue to struggle even if we opened today as bills are piling up. Us as business owners would be able to truly focus on safety.
 - Gov DeSantis- PPP is federal, we are working with Senator Rubio, but what I want to do is try to have Senator Rubio put information out to access it. If after PPP is done and business owners still need help, we will try to work aggressively to stand up a state program to assist.
- Mayor Demings- We have listened to small businesses, so we want to make sure that we are able to provide the businesses have access to PPE. With our CARES act money, we are purchasing masks and hand sanitizer to businesses re-opening.
 - Gov DeSantis- we are looking at the CARES act money we received to be able to support businesses.

Gov DeSantis- you have my commitment to getting there so we can re-open safely.

Governor DeSantis Press Conference

- Great to be in Orange County to be here in to discuss ways to re-open the county
 - Opening hair salons were not a part of phase one, but we are working on how to do it.
- ICU
 - Florida had 581 Covid patients in the ICU statewide last night, lowest since this began
 - Orange County has 21 patients in the ICU, 51% of ICU beds available and empty
- Ventilators
 - 356 patients statewide on ventilators
 - 6361 unused ventilators in the state
- Testing
 - In Pensacola yesterday opening a new site
 - Testing crucial in Phase One
 - Yesterday, we had 723 new Florida cases out of 19,000 test results; 4.1% positivity rate
 - National average is 15%
 - New Jersey is closer to 40%
 - Orange County- 18 new cases out of 1760 tests; 1% positivity rate

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- Great story out of Orange County with the tourism and number of people who come here
- Tested 420,000 people here in Florida
- 7 drive-thru sites, adding Pensacola, Naples, and Bradenton plus a hybrid drive-thru and walk-up site at Miami Beach Convention Center
- Nursing Homes
 - Strike teams working
 - Recognizing this is the most vulnerable population
 - Launching mobile lab in a converted RV
 - Will be able to do 45 minute tests on the RV
- Licensed Pharmacists
 - Walgreens announced they are opening 9 drive-thru sites
 - CVS also getting into the game
 - Walmart will too in partnership with Quest
- New machine to clean the PPE will be up and running in Miami
 - Can clean 18,000 masks a day, but you will be able to re-use twenty times
- Orange County
 - Poised to help the state move forward
 - Has really shown we can get this done

Mayor Jerry Demings

- Thank you to the Governor and the small business owners
- We recognize we are a key part of the state's overall economy
 - Have had amazing leadership from small and large business owners
- Working to make sure we are trying to utilize our funding from the CARES act is to help businesses acquire the PPE they need to be safe
- Data-driven approach like the state
- Important that testing continues
- Want to re-assure our community that as residents are tested, they have a responsibility to protect themselves and others
- We are not rejoicing that this pandemic is over, the threat is still there, we want the numbers to continue to be low and still have a goal of getting to zero cases
- It takes several weeks between phases

Gov DeSantis

- Hoping to get the anti-bodies tests any day we are working aggressively to get this here
- It is crucial to understand how it has spread

Press Questions

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- Next steps
 - We'll take this back and when everyone else is back on Monday, we will vet this through our team.
- Masks when folks can't wear them when they're trying to get services
 - Maybe we start with services with masks first and then look at other services
- Dashboard
 - The information on positivity is available on the website.
- Tests
 - 450,000 tests, but understand there are some re-tests, there is a lag so we think there are over 400,000 who have been tested
- Unemployment
 - Executive Order on re-applying every two weeks expires soon, the intent was to mitigate the volume on the site, but the system can handle it now, but if it is needed, I am certainly okay with extending. Not as worried now but will look at it.
- Unemployment
 - Ultimate goal is to make sure anyone who is processed is getting their checks. We can't change eligibility under state law, so if someone is not eligible, there is another process for the CARES act unemployment assistance.