



April 7, 2020

A Message from the Florida Chamber: COVID-19 Update



[\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

Friends, our nation is at war, yet instead of our military serving on the front line battling the enemy, our nurses, doctors, and other front-line health care heroes are our front line of defense. To date, we've lost 254 Floridians to this virus, and sadly, our projected one-day total for peak deaths in Florida is 242 deaths in ONE DAY in a few short weeks. The models are changing daily but we have the best data and it's going to get worse before it gets better – thank God for our front-line healthcare heroes. The Florida Chamber is so proud of them and grateful for all they are doing in communities to put their health on the line to protect our lives, and I've [shared \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) our support with every single hospital across Florida.

You've likely seen the images, [nurses praying on rooftops \[r20.rs6.net\]](#), front-line health care workers desperate for [more personal protection equipment \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) (PPE). Thankfully, the spirit of free enterprise is helping answer the call in Florida – millions of N95 masks, thousands of ventilators and other PPE tracked down through the Florida Chamber's make-shift **COVID-19 Call Center** for healthcare workers are being connected to Florida's **Department of Emergency Management**. Please continue reaching out to **Tanya Bechtold** in our COVID-19 Call Center if you have the ability to manufacture swabs and/or masks, procure them and/or donate them. Contact her at tbechtold@flchamber.com or 850-521-1218.

BY THE NUMBERS: Florida now has 13,629 positive COVID-19 cases, that's an increase of 1,279 since yesterday. We've had 254 deaths (that's 33 more than yesterday), and 63 counties (one new county, Hamilton, was added) out of 67 counties are reporting positive cases. Florida has managed to significantly increase our testing and we've now tested 124,048 ([second highest in the nation \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)) and we tested more than 9,150 Floridians yesterday alone. Once we get to 200,000 tests in Florida, we'll be in a similar percentage of testing as South Korea, a model that is proving effective so far.

I'm grateful to learn that Miami **Congressman Mario Díaz-Balart** has been deemed COVID-19 free by his doctors, and has reunited with his family. Congressman Diaz-Balart has committed to helping others by joining Red Cross plasma donation efforts to help others with the virus infection – congratulations and thank you Mario.

SAFETY FIRST: Safety is our first priority, that's why, as an essential business, 100% of the Florida Chamber team is working remotely (around the clock) to ensure our members are getting the best information available to keep employees paid and businesses from going under. We're all in this together, and it's why I'm asking you to join me and the Florida Chamber team in helping Surgeon General Scott Rivkees protect Floridan's from the spread of COVID-19 by taking the www.StrongerThanC19.com [\[r20.rs6.net\]](#) survey.

I spoke to General Rivkees a few times yesterday and he is seeking input on the [CDC's newest guidelines regarding masks \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) for businesses and customers. Please review these brand-new guidelines, and help us provide Surgeon General Rivkees your input on the new mask and cloth covering guidelines by taking this [Florida Chamber Healthcare Partnership Survey \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Certainly, the health aspects of flattening the curve have had economic consequences. That's why we're encouraging:

- Small businesses to apply for the [Paycheck Protection Program \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) forgivable loan program.
- Chamber members to know that, thanks to the Florida Chamber's [advocacy \[r20.rs6.net\]](#), [businesses will not be subjected to doc stamps \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) taxes if they take out a PPP loan/forgivable loan. More on this tax cut initiative at a later time but, for now, thank you

Useful Links

- NEW:** [Guide to Coronavirus Paid Leave Programs \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- NEW:** [Workers' Compensation Insurance Guidance Related to COVID-19 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Guide to Coronavirus Paid Leave Programs \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- Paycheck Protection Program: Apply Now [r20.rs6.net]**
 - [PPP Overview \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
 - [PPP for Lenders \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
 - [PPP for Borrowers \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
 - [Application for Borrowers \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Help Define Future Small Business Assistance: \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[Small Business Loan Survey \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [What does the Safer at Home Order mean for your business? \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Essential Services and Activities Inquiry Form \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Guide to SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans \(EIDL\) \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Guide to the Employee Retention Tax Credit \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Florida Department of Health \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[of Health \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Florida Chamber \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[COVID-19 Toolkit \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[Resources and \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[Guidelines for Business \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Centers for \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
[Disease Control \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [SBA Disaster Assistance \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [CDC Stop the Spread of Germs Poster \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Apple COVID-19 App \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

- to Team DeSantis for hearing our concern and helping over 2,000,000 small businesses in Florida.
- Chamber members to better understand **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** under the Governor’s Essential Services and Activities Executive Order.
 - Job creators to **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** of what should be considered an essential worker.
 - Businesses to use this **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** who might need a letter identifying them as an essential worker if they were to get stopped by law enforcement.

NEXT STIMULUS PACKAGES: U.S. Senator Marco Rubio was instrumental in the passage of the Paycheck Protection Program as part of the federal CARES-Act stimulus. We’re continuing our conversations with **Senator Rubio** and Florida’s congressional delegation, our partners in the banking industry, the Small Business Administration, and the Small Business Development Center on future stimulus changes. Your voice is needed to help ensure small businesses are getting the support they need. Please take two minutes to complete the Florida Chamber’s [Small Business Council Loan Survey \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).

EDUCATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR OFFERINGS: As part of our ongoing efforts to connect you with our Chief Economist Dr. Jerry Parrish and state and federal leaders, today there are additional opportunities to get the latest information and resources via our Chamber webinars:

- **Weekly Local Chamber Webinar:** Today at 10 a.m. EST – If you are a part the Florida Chamber’s Federation of local chambers of commerce and/or our partners at the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals and want to register for our weekly Local Chamber Specific Webinar, please simply email **Grant Holcomb** at gholcomb@flchamber.com for the registration information. Chamber members, please know that your local chamber is likely leading the local recovery efforts as soon as it’s safe to do so. If you are a state agency or member of Congress and you want Florida’s 200 local chambers of commerce to have the latest information, simply email Grant at gholcomb@flchamber.com and we’ll be in touch. Today, **AHCA Secretary Mary Mayhew** will be my guest as she shares her latest updates and requests for leading chambers. Please make supporting your chamber a priority
- **Get Your NEW SBA Loan Questions Answered On Our Webinar:** Today at 11:30 a.m. EST – [REGISTER HERE \[r20.rs6.net\]](#). **Small Business Administration Regional Director Ashley Bell** will be among the featured speakers. **Over 2 million Florida businesses should qualify for the new federal loan programs.** Trust me, we know you still have questions and we’re doing all we can to provide answers. Our COVID-19 Chamber team is providing free webinars to all Florida job creators who have questions – and our Small Business Council will keep doing them until you have everything you need.
- **National COVID-19 Situational Analysis and Economic Recovery Webinar:** I am the chair of the **National Association of State Chambers** and we’re hosting the first-ever national webinar for State Chamber CEO’s and their respective Boards of Directors. The team at **McKinsey & Company** will provide the very latest information on the health crisis as well as information needed for state chambers to lead state level economic recovery just like we’re doing here in Florida. This webinar is open to Trustees of the Florida Chamber Foundation, and also Florida Chamber Board members. I’ll report back on the key takeaways soon.

CHECK OUT RESOURCES & SHARE THIS MESSAGE: I encourage you to see additional resources, as well as [all the incredible things your fellow Florida Chamber members are doing \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) by reading our Daily COVID-19 Membership Update. If there’s information I’m not providing in this daily email, simply let me know and we’ll make every effort to get you what you need in our collective time of need. Share this with others and ask them to [sign-up \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) to receive a copy.

My Best,

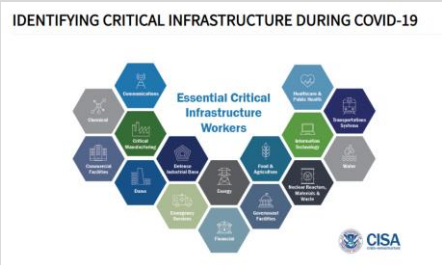
Mark Wilson
President and CEO



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[\[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

[Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

[Educational Links for Virtual School \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

Prepared by the **U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

FLORIDA
CHAMBER
of Commerce

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY LOANS

Small Business Guide and Checklist

[r20.rs6.net]

- [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\): Begin Applying April 3 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [PPP Overview \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [PPP for Lenders \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [PPP for Borrowers \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [PPP Borrower Application \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [NEW - Guide to Coronavirus Paid Leave Programs \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [NEW - Workers' Compensation Insurance Guidance Related to COVID-19 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Florida Delays Property Tax Payment Deadline \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Professional Licenses Renewals Suspended \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Take the Business Damage Assessment Survey \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [DOL Required Families First COVID-19 Employer Notice Poster \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Reemployment Assistance Service Center \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Reemployment Assistance Paper Application \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Income Tax Filing Deadline Moved to July 15 From April 15 \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Payment Due Date for 2019 Tax Payments Delayed for 90 day \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

Florida Businesses Responding



Airbnb
Airbnb has launched a global effort to provide housing for frontline medical personnel and first responders. Airbnb's incredible community of generous hosts has offered 100,000 places to stay for people responding to the pandemic. Through this program, frontline staff can book both free and paid stays in 160 countries and regions. Airbnb is waiving all fees for these bookings and will not profit from these stays. Click [here \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) to learn more.



Busch Family Foundation
The Busch Family Foundation partnering with The Community Foundation Martin-St. Lucie have created the "Serving the Servers" fund for individuals affected in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River Counties. The fund provides assistance specific for individuals with reduction or loss of income due to COVID-19 in the restaurant and bar industry. Click [here \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) to learn more.

[r20.rs6.net]

Share Your Story: Businesses of all sizes and sectors are [stepping up to address \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) this crisis. Share your company's story by emailing Christi McCray at cristimccray@flchamber.com.

Top Stories

- [Modeling coronavirus: 'Uncertainty is the only certainty' \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Worried \\$2 trillion wasn't enough, Trump and congressional leaders converge on need for more aid \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Boris Johnson 'remains in charge' after coronavirus hospital admission, UK government says \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [US records over 10,000 coronavirus deaths as infections mount \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Social Distancing Is Much Easier Thanks To These 42 Brilliant Things \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Cooking at Home in the Time of Coronavirus \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [What you need to do to get your government stimulus check \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)
- [Your Guide to the Federal Stimulus Package \[r20.rs6.net\]](#)

COVID-19: Number of Cases in Florida

