

## **COVID-19 Update Press Conference**

**Monday, April 27, 2020**

Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County

Jim Judge – Emergency Management Director

Patricia Boswell - Administrator of the Florida Department of Health

Ed Kelley – Volusia County Council, County Chair

Dr. Joe Smith - AdventHealth DeLand, Chief Medical Officer

Mike Chitwood - Volusia County Sheriff

### **Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County**

#### **Beach Opening:**

- Beaches – There will be a phased in approach to opening much like there was to how they were closed. They will be opened based on medical conditions, health statistics and government recommendations.
- Beach opening will also depend upon the weather, tides and ocean conditions.
- There will be a step by step and thoughtful manner for re-opening. There will be a phased ramping up to the re-opening of the beaches.

#### **Correctional Facilities:**

- Volusia County Jail has 860 inmates and the Correctional Facility has 350 for a total of 1, 210 inmates. There have been no documented cases of COVID-19 among staff or inmates to date.

#### **COVID-19 Testing:**

- Drive up testing is occurring at Daytona International Speedway by Advent Health.
- Family Health Source is offering screenings and testing at three locations: Daytona Beach, DeLand and Deltona.
- All three (3) Halifax Health locations, as well as Halifax Health Urgent Care in Ormond Beach are performing testing.
- Jena Medical Group in Orange City now offers testing at Hester building at the Volusia County Fairgrounds.
- All testing information can be obtained by going to [Volusia.org](http://Volusia.org)

#### **Burn Ban:**

- The burn ban is still under effect.

### **Jim Judge – Emergency Management Director**

- There have been questions asked regarding how PPE supplies are holding up.
  - We have received six (6) pallets of PPE this weekend.
  - Supplies are holding up well.
  - Through coordination, communication and collaboration with community partners, and utilizing WebEOC, which is being utilized by 67 counties, supplies are being received from the state and through the Orlando distribution hub.
  - Supplies are also being received through private vendors.

### **Patricia Boswell - Administrator of the Florida Department of Health**

- Florida Department of Health has shown a cumulative total of 440 COVID-19 cases in Volusia County, with 17 total deaths to date. Fifty cases of COVID-19 and eight deaths were in long term care facilities.
- Tomoka Correctional Institution, being a state facility, will post COVID-19 information on their website.
- The counting of recovered COVID-19 patients is also something that is being determined, with two current methods of determining recovery:
  - Patients that have recovered after 14 days
  - Patients that have been discharged from the hospital
- There are five areas that are being focused upon:
  - Social distancing
  - Testing capacity has expanded
  - Emphasis on protecting the vulnerable and elderly population.
  - Current health care systems can still care for all of the patients anticipated.
  - Contact testing on new cases and contact tracking is in place.
- Florida Department of Health will continue to provide information that is updated once per day on their website. Information that is posted will also contain data for reports by county, as well as long term care facilities.

### **Dr. Joe Smith - AdventHealth DeLand Chief Medical Officer**

- Cases in Volusia County continue to remain stable and declining.
- Business partnerships are minimizing impact of surges and keeping us safe and protecting healthcare system capacity.
- At this time we are working on bringing patients back to the healthcare system.
  - If you are sick or require emergency services, come in to the hospital or your primary care physician.
  - Elective surgeries are being scheduled.
- Since March, 27,000 tests have been administered. Since testing has been opened up, the Daytona International Speedway testing location has seen a large volume of patients.
- The Surge Plan is still in place, if needed.
- Thoughtful re-entry with opening up the State.

- Hospital staff is still wearing protective masks, and N95 masks when dealing with COVID-19 patients.
- Two major medications are being used, as well as plasma therapy, in healing COVID-19 patients.

**Ed Kelley – Volusia County Council, County Chair:**

Governor’s Stay at Home Order:

- We are still under the Governor’s “Stay at Home” order until Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Washing Your Hands:

- Although not stated by Dr. Smith, it goes without saying that the most important thing that we can do is to wash our hands after being out, and touching things that we don’t normally touch, before touching our face.
- Secondly, we must practice social distancing.
- Wear a mask if you feel that it would make you feel more comfortable.

**Mike Chitwood - Volusia County Sheriff**

- Thank you to the business community in their generosity in donating supplies, hand sanitizer, masks, to first responders.
- Advent and Halifax hospitals have been amazing in their priority testing of first responders.
- Anticipation for April 30<sup>th</sup> and the changes that entails with re-opening the State.
- There are still families out there that cannot make ends meet. There are two events coming up to offer assistance to families in need:
  - Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Kitchen Gallery in Ormond Beach from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. there will be food being distributed.
  - Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, food donations and cash (check) donations being collected.
  - Donations that are collected will be kept in Volusia County.

**Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County**

Thank you and our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

