

COVID-19 Update Press Conference

Monday, May 18, 2020

Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County

Jim Judge – Director, Emergency Management of Volusia County

Holly Smith – Communications Manager for the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County

Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County

Good afternoon. I'm Kevin Captain, interim Director of Community Information for Volusia County government. We have a brief briefing today.

Today you'll hear from:

- Volusia County Emergency Management Director, Jim Judge
- And, Holly Smith with the Florida Department of Health Communication Specialist in Volusia County

So, last Thursday, May 14, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-123, which addressed the reopening of restaurants, retail, museums and gyms, professional sports venues, amusement parks and vacation rentals.

Effective today, May 18, restaurants and food establishments, retail sales establishments, and gyms and fitness centers, statewide may operate at 50 percent capacity, pending they follow specific social distancing guidelines, as well as cleaning guidelines.

The order also addressed the process for reopening of vacation rentals. Per the order, counties may submit a reopening plan for vacation rentals to the state for approval. Those reopening plans require submitting a county safety plan for vacation rental and operations to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). The DBPR posted guidance on their website late Friday, and the county officials are reviewing those materials. County officials will be collaborating with the Volusia County Council which does meet tomorrow as scheduled.

Public participation will take place in chambers and begins at 9:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting can be viewed live online at [Volusia dot org forward slash live meeting](http://Volusia.org/live-meeting). We're also

working towards a full reopening of the beach for the Memorial Day weekend and will have more information on that pending later this week. And now, Emergency Management Director, Jim Judge.

Jim Judge – Director, Emergency Management of Volusia County

Thanks, Kevin, and good afternoon everyone. The good news is that tropical storm Arthur is now moving off of the North Carolina coast and heading out into the open Atlantic. The good news is that the strong tropical storm force winds up in that area did stay off shore. Although, North Carolina and the south part of Virginia did get quite a bit of rain. So, for Volusia County the weather report for today is we were anticipating some potential for severe weather for this afternoon, but the good news for us is that it is going to stay well south of us. Now, we may get a passing shower this afternoon and a thunderstorm is not out of the question. And, we may get some rain through this week, but nothing like it was anticipated to be earlier today. So, with that we are only about 16 or 15 days until we get into the hurricane season. Hurricane season is June the first, but of course we already have one on the books already which was Arthur, so now is a good time to review your family planning. Look at what you are going to do should a storm come our way. Get that checklist out, make sure you've got the items that you need to have on hand available. So, again it is not too soon to begin to get ready for that beginning of hurricane season June 1st. And with that, let me turn it over to Holly Smith with the Department of Health in Volusia County.

Holly Smith – Communications Manager for the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County

Thanks Jim. Holly Smith with the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County. As of this morning, the Florida Department of Health is reporting 605 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Volusia County. 30 of those cases have died. 18 of the deaths were associated with a long-term care facility. 20 percent of Volusia's COVID-19 cases have been hospitalized. Those death and hospitalization numbers have not changed since last Friday. These statistics are updated daily at [FLHealthCOvid19.GOV](https://www.flhealth.gov/covid19). That's [FLHealthCOvid19.GOV](https://www.flhealth.gov/covid19).

There are two new pop-up testing sites open this week. One is on the east side of the county. The newest one will be on the west side. Testing began this morning at the Ormond Performing Arts Center and will continue through Wednesday of this week. The hours are 9 in the morning until 1 in the

afternoon. This free COVID-19 DRIVE-thru testing site is a partnership between the City of Ormond Beach and the Department of Health. You do not have to be a resident of Ormond Beach to be tested at this site.

Beginning Thursday, DeLand residents will have a free COVID testing site in town. Testing will be outside Spring Hill Park on Thursday, Friday and Saturday – weather permitting. It will be open from 9 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon or while supplies last. Anyone... can get tested. This is a nasal swab test. You do not have to have symptoms to be tested. You do not have to live in the city of DeLand.

This site here in DeLand will have drive-thru testing and walk up testing. If you are driving through for testing, take West Beresford Avenue to South Thompson Avenue and then turn left on Thompson Avenue and the drive-thru test will be next to Spring Hill Park. The drive thru test will be next to the Spring Hill Park. Walk-up testing will be inside the park. Again, that is Spring Hill Park.

The DeLand testing site is a partnership between the City of DeLand, Volusia County Government, the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County and the West Volusia NAACP. To get through the line faster at either of these free test sites, in Ormond Beach or DeLand, you should pre-register. To do that, please call the Department of Health at 386-274-0500 and select # for coronavirus information. That's 386-274-0500 and select # for coronavirus information. The registration call center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

It will take about week to 10 days to receive results. The Department of Health will call you with the results of the test, and that is whether they are positive or negative. Again, If you would like to pre-register for testing at either one of these two sites, that is Ormond Beach or DeLand, please call the Department of Health in Volusia County. The telephone number is 386-274-0500 and press # for the COVID call center. Thank you, Kevin.

Kevin Captain – Interim Director of Community Information of Volusia County

Thank you, Holly, for that testing information and the data update on COVID-19. Moving forward, we will continue to hold these daily briefings strictly as new information becomes available. We have been doing them currently on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. So, these briefings may no longer occur four times per week. It is going to depend largely upon the information flow with the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the latest information and updates, please follow Volusia County Emergency Management on Facebook or visit [Volusia dot org forward slash coronavirus](http://Volusia.org/coronavirus). And, we have no questions, so with that we will end this conference. Take care, stay safe.