

## News Conference

March 24, 2020

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

Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us. My name is Kevin Captain, Interim Community Information Director for Volusia County Government. Before we begin, I would like to just ask everyone to stop for a moment and take a deep breath.

We know this is a trying time. And that we are working around the clock to ensure Volusia County Government and it's agencies have the most up to date information so that we can make educated informed decisions with the best interest with our community in mind.

Today you will hear from our County Chair, and County Manager, the Florida Department of Health, Volusia County Schools, both hospital systems in Volusia County and Volusia County's EMS Medical Director and our Sheriff.

In the days weeks, and maybe even months ahead, we continue to ask that you stay informed and take the necessary steps to protect yourself, your neighbors, your loved ones and all of Volusia County residents.

With that I would like to bring up Volusia County Chair, Mr. Ed Kelley.

### **Ed Kelley, Volusia County Chair**

Thank you, Kevin. What I would like to tell you is something you hear from all levels of government. And that is follow the guidelines that is set out by CDC. I got a memo today from intergovernmental affairs of the White House, stressing washing your hands and follow the guidelines. It's up to us. We are all a part of this and we are all in this and we can do this and make a difference by just following those simple guidelines.

This is a community event. And we need to be there for each other. So remember when you are at the store, oh by the way. I stopped at the store after the MAG meeting this morning, going home for lunch. I thought I hit the jackpot. I found ground beef and eggs without any hesitation. So, it make my wife very happy and now we have eggs and ground beef to eat for a few days. Only buy what you need. Some of the people out there that are hording, I even offered to trade a gallon of bleach for a 4 pack of toilet paper. I got 3 offers. But they didn't want to take the bleach.

Social distancing does not mean that we have to disconnect from your social people. Check on people that are shut in. I know we have an elderly lady that lives by herself, we check on her every day. Keep those social contacts. Check on your loved ones together we can make a difference. Together we can do this and get through it. So just help out. Smile as he said and lets

all try to do our part and get through this. And with that I would like to bring up our County Manager, George Recktenwald.

### **George Recktenwald, County Manager, County of Volusia**

Good afternoon. Thank you for being here today. As I say every time I'm up here we continue to monitor this situation and we are collaborating with our partners and the cities to navigate our changing situation.

We have implemented limited hours at county offices to ensure our employees are protected and stay well so that they can continue to serve the public.

Many of our services are available on line. So before you get in your car visit Volusia.org or give us a call. We maybe able to handle this issue right on the phone and you can stay in the comfort and safety of your home.

Some of our county services such as the Marine Science Center and **LEC** and the Library buildings are closed. However libraries continue to offer curb side pickup as well and the ability to register for a card on line. Just go visit the libraries webpage. There is a wealth of additional information.

Let's talk about the beaches. Last weekend we closed the vehicle access ramps though out Volusia County on the beaches. This served as a system of crowd control. And it worked. Beach vehicle ramps will remain closed until further notice. Looking towards this weekend we expect numbers to climb again and we are going to be looking at mid-day high tide. Really starting by Thursday it's going to be hitting about 10 o'clock in the morning. So as you know when the tide moves in the width of the beach decreases, this of course pushes people together. Our beach safety team is observing the beach on patrol, using drown technology especially in high populated areas with the ability to make adjustments as necessary.

We are prepared to limit parking on our beach side lots as needed to proactivity control any potential crowding. Beach goers must follow social distancing practices. Visible observation in crowds or high volumes of people will result in reduced parking and if needed closer of those beach side lots. We will continue to keep a pelts over this evolving situation and will continue to provide updates as they become available. Now I'd like to bring up Patricia Boswell with the Florida Department of Health.

### **Patricia Boswell, Director, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County**

Good afternoon. I am Patricia Boswell. I am your administrator for the Volsuia County Health Department. As of 10 a.m. today where 1,412 total Florida were cases of COVID-19. Here in Volusia County the Florida Department of Health has announced 18 total cases of COVID-19. Fourteen of these cases are either travel related or close contact of a known case. Four of the cases are under investigation.

The Florida Department of Health has five priorities. Stop the introduction of this virus into our community, protect our elderly, leverage testing capabilities, message social distancing and prepare for the medical surge. The Florida Department of Health in Volusia County continues to focus on identifying, testing and isolating people at increased risk for spreading COVID-19. Volusia's hospitals, urgent care centers and physicians and private practices also may test their patients. This holistic approach to testing involves not only our public health but also our private sectors. Anyone who has symptoms and is concerned about COVID-19 should contact their doctor or urgent care clinics.

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention also has an online screening tool for individuals for now to use. It's called coronavirus self-checker. The direct website address for the self-checker is [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/systems-testing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/systems-testing). You can also find the self-checker on google search – CDC self-checker.

Thank you, and at this time I would like to invite our Superintendent of Volusia Schools Dr. Fritz to join us via call in.

### **Dr. Scott Fritz, Superintendent of Volusia County Schools via phone call**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Currently our schools are closed until April 15 by order of the Governor. I am very proud of our employees with what they are doing with our students.

Currently we are prepared to have a whole learning plan called Instructional Continuity Plan.

Yesterday we posted this plan to our website for all of our parents. The learning begins next Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> for our students. It will be an online learning platform and for those students that maybe don't have the technology we do have a limited amount of iPads and Laptops that are being distributed. For students that have connect ability issues or maybe that do not have it, we will also have **war packs** available for our students.

We've been in constant contact with our students and staff and will continue to update daily. We are providing free meals at this time to our students at almost 28 sites from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students must be present for the food to receive their lunches and their breakfast.

Beginning next week, our drivers and cafeteria workers will work in conjunction to not only deliver to those sites at the schools but will also be going to house stops so we can service more students with food.

I've been in contact communication with the Department of Education and the Governor's office, doing regular conference calls and receiving their guidance. We are working very hard to ensure that learning continues for our students and that we provide our support for our employees.

We are all in this together and we too will become a stronger school district because of this experience.

Thank you.

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

Thank you Dr. Fritz. To continue the conference. We will come back to Dr. Fritz with questions later. At this time I would like to introduce two physicians for Halifax Health. One is Dr, Stephen Viel, he is the Medical Director of Emergency Services at Halifax Health and Dr. Margaret Crossman who is the Chief Medical Officer at Halifax Health in Daytona. Welcome.

### **Stephen Viel, Medical Director of Emergency Services, Halifax Health**

Thank you. Halifax Health we have been preparing for the past several weeks for medical surge for patients with COVID-19. We did receive our first patient over the weekend who was known positive for COVID-19. That patient was admitted to our special isolation unit that we have been preparing since the pandemic became clear.

We are also operating alternative treatment site at our main ED in Daytona. The purpose of this treatment site is to screen respiratory patients in an alternative setting where we can minimize the use of personal protective equipment. Keep our staff and to serve more effectual.

Our current testing is still limited. We are following the State Department guidelines regarding testing. We are using both public health labs and outpatient commercial laboratories for testing. We expect to be able to conduct testing in house within the next week.

With PPE we have put in place multiple conservation efforts. Our current supply PPE is adequate. But we are preparing for every contingency. This includes preparing two sterilized and reuse 95 respirators and purchasing additional substitutes such as washing cloth masks also.

### **Margaret Crossman, Chief Medical Officer, Halifax Health**

So as Dr. Viel has indicated, we have been working towards this as a multidisciplinary group including out administrators leads like Dr. Viel and others and we do feel like we are prepared. We are organized as much as anyone can be. We have a terrific team of doctors and specialists and subspecialists. We are collaborating with all of our colleges across not only the country but across the world. Keeping up with the latest in technology and treatment as far as how best manage these patients and how to keep our staff safe.

Just to clarify for those of you who don't know what PPE its Personal Protective Equipment. We have the pleasure and honor to introduce Dr. Goldman.

### **David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

Hello, I am Dr. David Goldman. I'm the Chief Medical Officer at Advent Health of New Smyrna Beach. I'm glad to represent the Advent Health of Volusia County and the North regions hospitals. The wonderful thing about Advent Health is we have the ability right here in the Central Florida to tap in to over 4,400 hospital beds and over 600 critical care beds. We love being part of the community this is the time we all come together with a large multi hospital system provides us a tremendous benefit.

We have been working tiously already setting up command centers multidisciplinary teams just as Dr. Crossman said. Because this is the time you have to talk to all your stake holders. From your resources, from your pharmacy's, from your supplies, equipment, housekeeping. Everything in the hospitals to get ready for the surge capacities. And even things from security and crowd control. We felt very bad about it but it was necessary that we set in visitor policies.

We have acceptations obviously for pediatrics and surgical cases but it's to keep our patients safe. In this multidisciplinary team meets around the clock.

We set up demand centers and call centers. I myself will take certain nights of call just to make sure that we have address everything in a timely fashion. We are also feeling we have a robust infection management team and emergency management team to coordinate to that. We do that by having a mission control center that is set up in Orlando. On staff there is over 50 employees. There is nurses, EMS, flight, subspecialists, Medical Directors, and in so doing that; if we get critical patients as we have all seen on the news. It's important if our hospital know our limiting and capacity to take care of them, we can quickly make a call, and we can transfer them to the appropriate center.

For example, Advent Health, Orlando Health has a 40 bed co-heart unit just all set up with critical care specialists to take care of these patients with all the necessary ventilators and extra resuscitator devices that can take care of them.

Certain things we are also doing is also contacting our vendors to make sure that we have our adequate supplies and our medical wipes even simple things to our protective equipment. We are activity screening all of our patients that come in and make sure that no sick contacts come into the hospital. We want to make sure that we are safe here and we are ready to take care of you. The one things that you have probably seen across the country is making sure that health care providers stay healthy.

This is a time where we want people to work remotely and we want people to be safe but we have to stay safe. So we are taking all the measures to make sure that we've got the right HR policies in place and the right quarantine. I am sure there will be lot of questions at the end on what's testing and who's testing and not testing. So one thing you are going to see a lot of the hospitals also set up our prepared tents for surge capacity. We set them up now so that it is better to be ready and prepared but we pray we don't have to use them. But they are there and these are going to be a mini screening concept of seeing who is sick and not sick if somebody is obviously very ill they are going to come into the emergency department, but this is to keep them outside and rapidly assist and treat those patients.

At this moment I am going to stop. I know there is going to be more questions. But thank you so much for having this venue for our community.

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

Thank you Dr. Goldman. At this time I'd like to welcome Dr. Peter Springer. He is the medical Director for Volusia County EMS.

### **Peter Springer, EMS Medical Director, County of Volusia**

Good afternoon everyone and I appreciate y'all being here to help spread the word.

I am here to represent all of the first responders throughout our county. Not only does it involve our firefighters, EMTs and paramedics on the Volusia County EMS side, but it also represents the first responders of the various municipalities and their fire departments as well.

We have actually been working very hard over the last more two weeks now trying to prepare for this and it starts at our dispatch level. Through the Sheriff's dispatch center and the communications department at the 911 center. We have provided scripts for all of our 911 call takers to screen calls for potential exposure or patients who have been exposed to or could eventually expose to others. So it starts there and as you can imagine with the CDC guidelines changing daily, they have had to change the way they have to answer calls and try to screen out the appropriate patients for potential exposure.

I give them kudos and I really appreciate all the hard work they have done through the dispatch center and through the Sheriff's Department and his group there. They have worked tirelessly to help us in our written diver here. Once calls get received there's only a few options at this point. We use to send out an ambulance crew, or to actually have one of our nurse triage providers actually screen the call to see if it's something that can be treated over the phone or at an alternate site. We certainly appreciate all the hard work that they have done We just implemented early December. So they have been ramping up very quickly to be able to handle this type of pandemic that none of us expected.

And then we have our first responders that are actually out there on the streets. Going into people's houses and taking care of patients. I can't tell you how proud I am of each and every one of those providers because they have taken on this job enthusiastically and knowing they are going to be at risk and more so than other health care providers. They have done a wonderful job. We are trying to protect them as much as possible because they certainly are front line. We have to rely on them if this gets bigger. Which it could be, it could happen. We are going to need providers out there to help us deal with this. We have been using our PPE equipment cautiously and to make sure they are all protected. Through the Emergency Operation Center we have been able to obtain stocks and supplies of the personal equipment to help protect our providers.

Again I want to thank each and every one of the people that work for our county on the EMS standpoint side and thank them for their hard work and I appreciate them in the future. So thank you.

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

Thank you Dr. Springer at this time the last speaker, we warmly invite up Sheriff Chitwood.

## **Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

Good afternoon. I know the only thing that is standing between the doctors getting questions is me. So I will try to keep it short.

As that was said by the County Chairman, we are living with an unprecedented crisis that is also causing us to have an unconventional responding. So every day we are getting a little bit better at this and we are learning things by trial and error. I would encourage all Volusia County residents, there is no reason to panic. As you heard from the team that is here from the Emergency Management, to Advent Health, Halifax Health to the Department of Health. You

have true professionals who have a passion for taking care of our community. So I would encourage you to try to return to life as normal as you could live it in these times.

And that goes back to the Chairman said earlier, you don't have to food shop. You don't have to fill up three carts. Go to a normal routine where you food shop every other week or every ten days. Let everybody look after one another in our community.

One of the things I think the residents should know is we are the only county in the state of Florida that has a nurse practitioner program that was put in place earlier by the county's Public Protection group. We have nurses in our dispatch center so if you call in, the dispatchers will transfer you to the nurse and a nurse can evaluate you over the phone and give sound medical advice of what you need to do.

I think that goes to show you the forward thinking that's going on in Volusia County. The other thing that I see at my level and I will tell you just two little stories is our community coming together. We did a Facebook post not too long ago outside the veterans home Emory L Bennett, where they needed masks and they asked for some type of packaged goods to be brought. After all the vets are on lock down. There has been tremendous community support for that. Folks that have shown up with 95 masks to provide the staff there and I had somebody send me an email that they have make up 118 baggies with snacks and games for every vet that is locked up inside of that home until that this thing passes. Tonight on CNN you will see a company in Ormond Beach "Fit USA" who is producing masks for first responders and for the medical professionals that are washable that have a great cost savings to us and they are supplying them around the country.

Here in Ormond Beach, in Volusia County a company that makes sports jerseys has retooled its self to meet the crisis in our county. That's the kind of things that are going on behind the scenes that you really don't see.

Two of the questions I am getting, are we going to install a curfew and are we going to shut in our place. And to the answer to that as of right now, no. there is no expectation at this point in time to shelter in place or to have a curfew issued.

Lastly I do want to give a shout out to our Emergency Management folks, to Dr. Springer to all of our first responders and to the hospitals that are working so closely to keep this community safe as it possibly can. You may not see it and you may want to criticize what's getting done or what you think should be done. At the end of the day, let me tell you. The folks are professional, they are passionate and compassionate and they want to get this county through this crisis as unscaved as possible. I have said this before, when we got up this morning, we are one day closer to putting this crisis behind us. So my prayers are God continues to bless us and all the families in the state and in this country and continues. God bless America for what this great country is. Thank you.

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

Thank you Sheriff, and thank you for those positive encouraging words as we all bare through this. Again as a reminder the best place to find information is at [Volsuai.org/coronavirus](http://Volsuai.org/coronavirus) or by visiting the Volusia County Emergency Management page on social media and Facebook.

With that we would like to open it up to questions. For those that are watching, we are in a wide room called the Operations Room here at the Emergency Operations Center. So what we are going to do is when we take questions we are going to have you come up to group. So we are going to take questions in five different groups starting with the Department of Health, followed by County issues, Volusia County Schools, Hospitals, and ending with Law Enforcement issues and public safety.

So with that we will ask the folks from Florida Department of Health to come up and Jeff our Lead Productions Coordinator is going to walk around with a microphone and if you have a question you can raise your hand.

This is Patricia Boswell with the Florida Department of Health.

### **Question # 1**

How confident are you in the information you are getting from the state is accurate?

#### **Response by Patricia Boswell, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County**

Each of the 67 county Health Departments in the state of Florida are a part of the Florida Department of Health. We have a centralized integrated public health system here in Florida. So I am confident in that the agency that I work for providing me the accurate information.

We are given the opportunity daily to review the cases that are going out to the public so that if there is some kind of error we have an opportunity to review that information.

### **Question # 2**

How confident are you in the comprehensiveness of the information that is being delivered by the state? And I have not heard or seen cases of people that have been cured or have left the hospital.

#### **Response by Patricia Boswell, Florida Department of Health in Volusia County**

The data is comprehensive. And that information has not been put out currently but I will advocate with our community because I think it's a good piece of data so it's a very positive piece. We have talked about this in our county leadership that, that is the kind of information I think we will be encouraging in terms of putting a positive note on there on what's happening. Thank you.

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

Thank you Ms. Boswell. We will move next to County Government Issues. We will have Mr. Recktenwald come up and Jeff will walk around with the microphone.

Any questions on County Government issues?

### **Question # 3**

What will be the new hours on the County Government offices and how soon will it become effective?

#### **Responded by George Recktenwald, County Manager, County of Volusia**

Starting yesterday we went to a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday being open in the morning from 8 to noon. On Tuesday and Thursday is 1 to 5. There is certain areas that maybe changing a little as we take a look again in the amount of services that are required at any given office. The goal is to try to provide those services without having the public having to come out of their homes and come down to these offices and also to protect our workers from having to see large volumes of the public.

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

Thank you Mr. Recktenwald. We will now proceed to questions relative to Volusia County Schools. Okay no questions. We will move on to the Hospital groups.

### **Question # 4**

If we did get critical patients, could you explain how local hospital is handling the number of patients, and if you have projections as of now with the numbers that we are at.

#### **Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

Well Department of Health is tracking many of the state testing. So what happens is just like with Halifax and all the hospitals, we evaluate patients, we go off the guide lines of testing them. Have they traveled, have they been in contact and then we assess them. If they meet that criteria then they will become a person that is under investigation. If they meet the criteria of the investigation then we will test them.

The most important thing is to keep people safe. If you go across most of the county of the United States, we are very fortunate opposed to other countries, many people now with COVID-19 are home.

The first thing we would do is we don't want to fill up the hospitals with patients with this virus. Just like the flu just like any other illness. We want people to be home and quarantined. The assumption would be admitted to the hospital to be sick enough to be in the hospital and that is a smaller number. From that number we take care of them and then we see do we meet the needs in our institution whether it's Advent Health New Smyrna Beach or Advent Health DeLand or Advent Health Daytona or Palm Coast those are the hospitals that are representing the county.

Then we work with our multidisciplinary teams to appropriately take care of them. If they continue to get sicker beyond on the services I can provide. Because if you have seen some of

these patients have required certain devices to take care of them. Unfortunately then we get together with other parts of our other hospitals and we communicate.

As to have many patients that I have in my hospital, that's just something you will see in Volusia County too see those 18 patients in the county that are active to the number would be small.

### **Question # 5**

How many flu related have you had come to the hospital.

#### **Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

That is the paradigm right now. If you look up the symptomology of the coronavirus, you know fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches. That matches thousands and thousands of illnesses we have. We had one of the worst flu seasons ever and its lost sight of that. We've had millions and millions of the flu. The Department of Health can speak a little bit more on the epidemiology on that.

That does create trouble to the physician because they could have something else and obviously with the community coming in with I have a fever and I have a cough and now I think I have COVID and that's what we are all feeling right now. But we use proper assessment. We look at them and can actually be honest with you. I was an emergency physician up until two weeks ago when I became the Chief Medical Officer New Smyrna Beach. I don't know when I will practice again but I was an Emergency Physician and so is Dr. Veil and our duty is to make sure the patient is well.

The first thing we are doing is seeing if you are sick or not well. It's not about whether I need to test you or not, it's about are you okay today, because the patient needs to know if they are well or not.

### **Question # 6**

What was the average number of flu patients of this year rather than a normal average flu season?

#### **Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

If you type in flu season for 2019, and that number can vary. They said about 3.7 million cases of the flu but I can tell you as an ER Doctor and Dr. Veil can say the same thing, when a family of five comes in looking like the flu during flu season not COVID-19 season, I am not going to put a swab in all those kids. So I don't know, we could have had five million of cases of the flu last year or six million cases. If a nursing home has a break out of the flu, we don't go through and swab every elderly person in the nursing home we assume they have the flu. The flu is a very contagious disease so this is a paradigm for us for wanting to know who's got it.

### **Question # 7**

How concerned are you to flatten the curve of the virus but without shutting down Volusia County?

**Responded by Margaret Crossman, Chief Medical Officer, Halifax Health**

If there is an (ARE NOT)  $R_0$ , you have a  $R_1$  or greater than one, then you will have one person infect several and infect several and you quickly have pandemics. If you have a  $R_0$  less than one then that means it's going to burn on out and you're not going to see it. That's going to lead to a curfew quarantine. If everybody in this room is spaced across the entire county and we were the only people here then we would probably pull that  $R_0$  down. Whereas if everyone is close in one little restroom we are going to have a higher  $R_0$ .

You know as measles spreads very quickly and very efficient and travels from one person to next and that has a very high  $R_0$ . But again if those people are a county apart that person is unlikely going to get measles. Same concept. We are dealing with something that has an  $R_0$  that's not quite that bad. Just as little as much as measles. But it's a little higher than the flu, if you wanted to compare.

So far the measures we have put in place in this county and country I think are very reasonable. Stay home, quarantine yourself, and take cautions regarding travel. All of them things have been effective to keep things down. But as you know people do silly things and that's probably going to be the same thing that could happen, rather we have quarantines and curfews and those sorts of things in place. Every bit of that helps but it's about how we all take responsibility for that social distancing that we need to do. 6 feet is where you ideally need to be away from others you don't know right now with community spread. Who's infected and who's not so you need to assume it's possible that anybody is infected but they aren't having symptoms yet. Maybe for a couple of days for that incubation period before they begin to have sniffles or a body aches or a head aches or fever as we talked about earlier you might have. But the point is you don't have to run in and get tested for COVID because there is so many things going around right now. Just sit tight lay low. CDC, our state our Health Department has done a great job in outlining what seems to be a very reasonable course of action.

**Question # 8**

Is there community spread?

**Responded by Stephen Viel, Medical Director of Emergency Services, Halifax Health**

I think there is some level of community spread. There is a couple of cases under investigation. But I think the social distancing is working. I think the goal at this point, we can't contain it but we are trying to stop that aggressive spread.

**Question # 9**

Since testing isn't available to everyone, what should people that are showing the symptoms and are panicking that they can't get a test done?

**Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

Things to remember that it's not specific treatment tied to it and most people do just fine, so if you are having symptoms and you are concerned but otherwise well, you should do what the CDC is recommending to stay home, stay to yourself and continue the handwashing and other

things they are reporting. If you start to become sicker and having symptoms and shortness of breath or worried you are having more severe illness then that's certainly time to visit the emergency room department and be seen by a physician.

### **Question # 10**

What is the period of time of contracting the virus by a cough or sneeze and what is the mesh like unit set up at Advent Health. Are those isolation and quarantine units?

#### **Responded by Stephen Viel, Medical Director of Emergency Services, Halifax Health**

I think there is some vulnerability on the waiting period, probably about a week maybe shorter. I think when we take these measures into precaution, I think there is message sending of desperation and I don't think that's the right message. I think the right message is the thought that we are preparedness and we have the same communication when we are talking about the personal protective equipment and the masks and we are taking these conservation efforts to prepare to reuse masks or preparing for masks alternatives. That's just really out of thoughtful preparation for any contingency. We can treat them more effectually and protect staff while using minimal amount of PPE, and we are communicating with our colleagues in Washington and New York, listening to them about what maybe they would have done differently.

#### **Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

Adding to that. In New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia around in their area, they have glass structures, they are making people stay in their cars to be tested and have to meet the criteria to be tested. But as my colleague has said it preparedness, and reduction of exposers. We are doing everything we can to keep the community and Volusia County safe and we don't have to get into the mass surge scenarios. And if we did that's another way of taking care of people that's another was our EMS system and another way of treatment. That is called the mitigation system. The tent is set up so if a surge happened and everyone came into the Emergency Room we would not be following the guidelines because we can't stay 6 feet apart and expose it to staff and everyone will get it. If my staff gets it we can't perform our services to get everyone back to health. The tent is just for a precaution and it's ready for when we would need to use it. It's not a panic room, it's just like a second Emergency room. It's just creating space.

### **Question # 11**

Does Hydroxychloroquine help in treating COVID-19? Do we have a supply on hand or is it hard to get?

#### **Responded by Margaret Crossman, Chief Medical Officer, Halifax Health**

As I said earlier, we have been looking across the county and the world for what's working and what's not. There is a lot of treatments. They are all under investigations but they are under all different stages. Hydroxychloroquine is something that has emerged and could be very helpful in keeping the virus from being able to replicate in that lung lining so it could reduce the viral

burden in the body and give the immune system a better chance of getting this under control quicker. To the second part of your questions, do we have supply? Our pharmacies has inventory. We have our stock supplies. There is more being made available and it is something that we are getting and making sure we some on reserve.

**Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

We are grading everyone that has COVID-19 and giving a certain level. So when someone gets to that certain level we would give them Hydroxychloroquine. But there is so many things we would do before we give the patient that.

**Question # 12**

At Advent Health, are the tents actually in use at this time?

**Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

We have not used the tents and in the senses in the Emergency Department are low. So maybe this is a time people are appropriately justifying. These tents are just to be prepared for a medical surge.

**Question # 13**

What are some of the community resources Advent Health has prepared? You mentioned a hot line and a Tela-Medicine E Care services.

**Responded by David Goldman, Chief Medical Officer for Advent Health**

There is a Tela-Health through ECare, and people can access that through their phones instead of getting out and exposing people. There is also a website CoronaResource.hub.com. You can get a medical screening through that. And can be treated for many illnesses not just COVID-19.

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

Thank you Dr. Veil, Dr. Goldman and Dr. Crossman. For our final round of questions, we welcome Sheriff Chitwood for law enforcement questions and public safety.

**Question # 14**

Due to COVID-19, are you and your deputies seeing more people taking advantage to seniors or committing crimes, things along those lines?

**Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

No and thank god so far domestic violence in the county has seen a down turn. Having said that, there are scum bags out there that are trying to go after the elderly with all kind of scams. There are test kit scam that is out there. Daytona Beach had a doctor with a mask guard on and tried to do a robbery. Again we as a community need to look out for our most venerable people right now which is our older folks and there are scammers out there.

### **Question # 15**

With the new Nurse Triage Program, what would they do different from an average dispatcher?

#### **Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

They are nurses with Halifax and Advent Health who have under gone dispatcher training. This was brought by County Government in particular Mr. Pozzo who said we want to do something enervative and creative because of the number of calls that are coming in. they created this program where there is nowhere else in the state of Florida. So when someone calls in with a high fever and I'm not breathing well. The nurse practitioner can come on and walked them through the steps of where they need to follow. Do we need to dispatch EMS, or is it something where you can drive yourself to your local doctor or to an Urgent Care and that's the beauty of what we have in these nurses that are stationed in dispatch.

### **Question # 16**

What are some pros and cons about deciding if Volusia County should have a curfew?

#### **Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

Looking at the crime from an overall perspective, we already have everything shut down, bars restaurants, night clubs. Therese rally nothing anybody can do. Why institute another hardship on our community. We just don't see the need for that right now. That could all change.

### **Question # 17**

Are you concerned we may have a juvenile crime and kids are going to get bored?

#### **Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

We have an investigation going on right now in Ormond Beach and Ormond-By-the-Sea in juveniles that are engaged in a lot of car brake ins. To answer that question is yes. We are working with the Department of Juvenile Justice, some of our problem juveniles are on a curfew and just because we are under the State of Emergency and schools are closed doesn't mean that that curfew still isn't in effect for those juveniles so we have teams detectives and school resource officers that are making county wide checks to be sure that those juveniles are at hearing to the probations that they have against them. This is also the time to ask parents to be parents. A lot of this stuff doesn't fall on the Government it falls on the parents to know what your kid is doing out at two o'clock in the morning when we drag them home.

## **Question # 18**

Are you concerned that they will find something to do?

### **Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

We are it's not every juvenile that we have an issue with, there is a small percentage. We are working very closely with all the municipalities and the Department of Juvenile Justice to keep an eye on our prolific trouble makers.

## **Question # 18**

Do you have a plan in place in case one of your deputy's text positive?

### **Responded by Sheriff Michael Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff's Office**

We do. The biggest fear for me is the room behind you has 110 dispatchers. They are the live line of public safety in this county. If something happens in that room we are crippled. Coupled that with our first responders, police, fire and EMS we are along the front line as well as the doctors and nurses that are in the hospitals.

I had a deputy that was really sick and went to the hospital in DeLand. He tests negative for Influenza A and B and comes back to not a probable test for Coronavirus. He's not out of the woods yet. They sent him home to quarantine for 14 days but through the help of Department of Health, we were able to back track where he was and see how he may have, even though he is not positive but see what we need to do. So working closely with the Department of Health and the CDC, we have a plan in place for that.

But you're going to set me off on the thing I think that really needs to change in the state of Florida here. I can train my officers and my deputies on how to respond to a barricaded suspect or an armed person or how to conduct a car stop. I can give them the tools and the training on how to conduct their selves. There's always a grey area there the unknown can happen. With this virus there should be no unknown for our first responders. Why some counties are not providing a list as to the addresses of the people that are quarantined and people that have the coronavirus. That's going on north of us. And another thing that is not in that list that I get every night from the Department of Health, I don't know who is quarantined. I don't know that stuff and that stuff needs to be given to us every night so we can update our CAD system our computer Aid Dispatch so when fire or EMS or police are dispatched we know what we are walking into. That information is there and that information needs to be served with first responders. When the Department of Health provides us that list, we go back 30 days to see if any first responder was at that address 30 days prior. But I think that is something that needs to change when we get out of this crisis that is something that needs to change in Tallahassee. It's not anybody that's in this room that can fix that. Tallahassee needs to make that happen and coordinate that effort because these men and women that put our lives on the line for us and then they go home to hug and kiss their kids.

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

Thank you Sheriff. As we close the conference, we just want to remind everyone the best place to find the information [Volusia.org/coronavirus](http://Volusia.org/coronavirus).

As a closing thought there is a lot of discussion about social distancing but it doesn't mean social isolation. Now is really the time where we all need to come together because we are all in this together. We know this is an infectious virus and Dr. Crossman mentioned the measure of the R0 (are not). There is a lot of acts of kindness that are going around. We need to make those infectious and an R0 of 100 on those. The more we can come together the better.

We thank everyone for your corporation we ask for your safety and welfare and health of our community, residents and visitors. With that good night.