



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jared Moskowitz
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Division of Emergency Management

FROM: Jared Moskowitz, State Coordinating Officer

DATE: April 9, 2020

RE: Additions of Essential Services to the list under EO 20-91

As Director of the Division of Emergency Management, designated the State Coordinating Officer per Executive Order 20-52 for the public health emergency (COVID-19), in accordance with Executive Order 20-91 I approve the following as additions to the list of "essential services" for the purposes of that Executive Order:

1. Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines.
2. Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of which are closed to the general public, who are necessary for: (a) ensuring the health, safety and security of persons, animals, and property (b) maintaining the value of inventory; (c) preserving plant, property and equipment condition; (d) maintaining regulatory compliance; (e) processing payroll and employee benefits; (f) facilitating the availability of employees working remotely; and (g) other activities otherwise necessary to preserve and maintain the facilities.
3. Employees at a professional sports and media production with a national audience - including any athletes, entertainers, production team, executive team, media team and any others necessary to facilitate including services supporting such production - only if the location is closed to the general public.

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Tel 850-815-4000
www.FloridaDivision.org

STATE LOGISTICS RESPONSE CENTER
2702 Directors Row
Orlando, FL 32809-5631

From: [McCloud, Cody](#)
To: [Mahon, Jason](#)
Subject: FW: New York Daily News request
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:58:00 PM

From: McCloud, Cody
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:45 PM
To: Feldman, Kate <kfeldman@nydailynews.com>
Subject: RE: New York Daily News request

Hey Kate, please see below from the Governor's Office:

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, **to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;**
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of **which are closed to the general public**, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, **only if the location is closed to the general public.**

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

From: Feldman, Kate <kfeldman@nydailynews.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Media <Media@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: New York Daily News request

Hi, I'm a reporter with the New York Daily News and I'm writing about WWE's decision to move ahead and return to live shows this week, despite the coronavirus pandemic. I would love to talk to the governor about allowing WWE to continue at the performance center in Orlando despite social distancing guidelines.

Thanks,
Kate

Kate Feldman
Reporter

New York Daily News
212-210-1678

From: McCloud, Cody
 To: Mahon, Jason
 Subject: FW: WWE Statement
 Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:31:00 AM

Can you call me on this

Cody McCloud
 Press Secretary
 Governor Ron DeSantis
 (850) 241-3728

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Ferre, Helen <Heien.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

I've reached out to DOH also, but wanted to see if you guys had thoughts on DOH emergency rule posted today.

If I reading correctly, it requires private labs to report all tests (positive and negative) immediately, as opposed to only positive test results which was case under previous rule.

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Disease Control

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:
 64DER20-26 Diseases or Conditions to be Reported

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE: Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza. COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality and presents a severe danger to public health. The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On March 1, 2020, a Public Health Emergency was declared by the Surgeon General to exist statewide in accordance with Executive Order 20-51. On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida. Therefore, there is an immediate need to adopt rules setting forth the procedures to control the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE PROCEDURE USED IS FAIR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES: COVID-19 presents a public health threat to the state of Florida. The Surgeon General has declared a statewide Public Health Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19. There is an immediate need to set forth procedures for the control of this communicable disease in the State of Florida.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE: Emergency rule 64DER20-26 (64D-3.029) requires immediate reporting of suspected or confirmed cases and both positive and negative test results of Coronavirus (COVID-19) by physicians, hospitals, and laboratories.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY RULE IS: Carina Blackmore, Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1703, (850)245-4732.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RULE IS:

64DER20-26 (64D-3.029) Diseases or Conditions to be Reported.

(1) through (2) No change

(3) "Table of Reportable Diseases or Conditions to Be Reported"

| Reportable Diseases or Conditions | Practitioner Reporting | | | | Evidence of current or recent infection with etiological agents and all associated testing results performed should be reported (e.g. species, serogroup, serotype, and antimicrobial susceptibility *2 results) | Laboratory Reporting | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|--|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|
| | Suspect Immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day | Other | | Submit isolates or specimens for confirmation *1 | Suspect Immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day | Other |
| Any case, cluster of cases, outbreak, or exposure to an infectious or non-infectious disease, condition, or agent found in the general community or any defined setting such as a hospital, school or | | | | | Detection in one or more specimens of etiological agents of a disease or condition not listed in this Rule that is of urgent public health significance. This includes the | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| other institution, not listed in this rule that is of urgent public health significance. This includes human cases, clusters, or outbreaks spread person-to-person, by animals or vectors or from an environmental, food or waterborne source of exposure; those that result from a deliberate act of terrorism; and unexplained deaths possibly due to unidentified infectious or chemical causes. | X | X | | | identification of etiological agents that are suspected to be the cause of clusters, or outbreaks spread person-to-person, by animals or vectors or from an environmental, food, or waterborne source of exposure; those that result from a deliberate act of terrorism; and unexplained deaths due to unidentified infectious or chemical causes. | X | X | | |
| Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) | | | | 2 weeks | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | |
| Amebic Encephalitis | | X | | | <i>Naegleria fowleri</i> , <i>Balamuthia mandrillaris</i> , or <i>Acanthamoeba</i> species | | X | | |
| Anthrax | X | X | | | <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> | X | X | X | |
| Antimicrobial resistance surveillance | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Antimicrobial resistance surveillance (for organisms not otherwise listed in this table), <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> , <i>Citrobacter</i> species, <i>Enterococcus</i> species, <i>Enterobacter</i> species, <i>Escherichia coli</i> species, <i>Klebsiella</i> species, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Serratia</i> species, Isolated from a normally sterile site *3 | | | | X |
| Arsenic Poisoning *4a | | | X | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | | X |
| Arboviral Infections, not otherwise listed in this table (disease due to) *5 | X | | | | Including but not limited to: Flaviviridae, Togaviridae (e.g. chikungunya, Western equine encephalitis), Bunyaviridae (e.g. Heartland, Rift Valley Fever) *5 | X | X | | |
| Babesiosis | | | X | | <i>Babesia</i> spp. | X | | | X |
| Botulism, foodborne, other (includes wound and unspecified) | X | X | | | <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> or botulinum toxin | X | X | X | |
| Botulism, infant | | | X | | <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> or botulinum toxin | X | | | X |
| Brucellosis | X | X | | | <i>Brucella</i> species | X | X | X | |
| California serogroup viruses (disease due to) | | | X | | California serogroup viruses such as Jamestown Canyon, Keystone, and Lacrosse | X | | | X |
| Campylobacteriosis *4b | | | X | | <i>Campylobacter</i> species *4b | | | | X |
| Cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancer, and including benign and borderline Intracranial and CNS tumors) *6 | | | | 6 months | Pathological or tissue diagnosis of cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancer and including benign and borderline intracranial and CNS tumors) | | | | 6 months |
| Carbon monoxide poisoning | | | X | | A volume fraction \geq 0.09 (9%) of carboxyhemoglobin in blood | | | | X |
| CD-4 absolute count and percentage of total lymphocytes | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | CD-4 absolute count and percentage of total lymphocytes *7 | | | | 3 days |
| Chancroid | | | X | | <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i> | | | | X |
| Chlamydia *8 | | | X | | <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | | | | X |
| Cholera | X | X | | | <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> | X | X | X | |

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|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| laryngeal papillomas or recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in children < 6 years of age *8 | | | X | | HPV DNA | | | | | X |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) – anogenital papillomas in children < 12 years of age *8 | | | X | | HPV DNA | | | | | X |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | HPV DNA *3 | | | | | X |
| Influenza due to novel or pandemic strains | X | X | | | Isolation of influenza virus from humans of a novel or pandemic strain | X | X | X | | |
| Influenza-associated pediatric mortality in persons aged < 18 years | | X | | | Influenza virus – associated pediatric mortality in persons aged < 18 years (if known) | X | | X | | |
| Influenza | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Influenza virus, all test results (positive and negative) *3 | | | | | X |
| Lead poisoning *4, 16 | | | X | | All blood lead test results (positive and negative) *3, 4, 16 | | | | | X |
| Legionellosis | | | X | | <i>Legionella</i> species | | | | | X |
| Leptospirosis | | | X | | <i>Leptospira</i> species | | | | | X |
| Listeriosis | | X | | | <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> | X | | X | | |
| Lyme disease | | | X | | <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> | | | | | X |
| Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV) | | | X | | <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | | | | | X |
| Malaria | | | X | | <i>Plasmodium</i> species | X | | | | X |
| Measles (Rubeola) | X | X | | | Measles virus *16 | X | X | X | | |
| Melioidosis | X | X | | | <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Meningitis, bacterial or mycotic | | | X | | Isolation or demonstration of any bacterial or fungal species in cerebrospinal fluid | | | | | X |
| Meningococcal disease | X | X | | | <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> | X | | X | | |
| Mercury poisoning *4a | | | X | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | | | X |
| Mumps | | | X | | Mumps virus | | | | | X |
| Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome *18 | | | | 6 months | Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning | | X | | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | X | | |
| Pertussis | | X | | | <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> | | | X | | |
| Pesticide-related illness and injury *4 | | | X | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4 | | | | | X |
| Plague | X | X | | | <i>Yersinia pestis</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Poliomyelitis | X | X | | | Poliovirus | X | X | X | | |
| Psittacosis (Ornithosis) | | | X | | <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> | X | | | | X |
| Q Fever | | | X | | <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> | X | | | | X |
| Rabies, animal or human | | X | | | Rabies virus | | X | X | | |
| Rabies, possible exposure *19 | X | X | | | Rabies, possible exposure | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Respiratory syncytial virus | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Respiratory syncytial virus, all test results (positive and negative) *3 | | | | | X |
| Ricin toxicity | X | X | | | Ricin (from <i>Ricinus communis</i> castor beans) | X | X | X | | |
| Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other Spotted Fever Rickettsioses | | | X | | <i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i> and other Spotted Fever <i>Rickettsia</i> species | X | | | | X |
| Rubella, including congenital | X | X | | | Rubella virus *17 | X | X | X | | |
| St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) | | | X | | St. Louis encephalitis virus | X | | | | X |
| Salmonellosis *4b | | | X | | <i>Salmonella</i> species *4b | X | | | | X |
| Saxitoxin poisoning including Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) | | | X | | Saxitoxin | | | | | X |
| Severe acute respiratory disease syndrome-associated with a Coronavirus infection | X | X | | | Coronavirus associated with severe acute respiratory disease | X | X | X | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shigellosis *4b | | | X | | <i>Shigella</i> species *4b | | | | X |
| Smallpox | X | X | | | Varicella virus (orthopox virus) | X | X | X | |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> isolated from a normally sterile site | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> isolated from a normally sterile site *3 | | | | X |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> with intermediate or full resistance to vancomycin (VISA, VRSA) | | X | | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> with intermediate or full resistance to vancomycin (VISA, VRSA); Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4 | X | | X | |
| Staphylococcus enterotoxin B | | X | | | Staphylococcus enterotoxin B | X | | X | |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease in children < 6 years, drug sensitive and resistant | | | X | | <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , all ages, isolated from a normally sterile site *20 | | | | X |
| Syphilis | | | X | | <i>Treponema pallidum</i> | | | | X |
| Syphilis in pregnant women and neonates | | X | | | <i>Treponema pallidum</i> | | | X | |
| Tetanus | | | X | | <i>Clostridium tetani</i> | | | | X |
| Trichinellosis (Trichinosis) | | | X | | <i>Trichinella spiralis</i> | | | | X |
| Tuberculosis (TB) *21 | | | X | | <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex *21 | X | | | X |
| Tularemia | X | X | | | <i>Francisella tularensis</i> | X | X | X | |
| Typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever *4b | | X | | | <i>Salmonella enterica</i> serotype Typhi and <i>Salmonella enterica</i> serotypes Paratyphi A, Paratyphi B, and Paratyphi C *4b | X | | X | |
| Typhus fever (epidemic) | X | X | | | <i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> | X | X | X | |
| Vaccinia disease | X | X | | | Vaccinia virus | X | X | X | |
| Varicella (Chickenpox) *22 | | | X | | Varicella virus | | | | X |
| Varicella mortality | | | X | | Varicella virus | | | | X |
| Venezuelan equine encephalitis | X | X | | | Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus | X | X | X | |
| Vibriosis (infections by <i>Vibrio</i> species and closely related organisms, other than Cholera) | | | X | | All non-cholera <i>Vibrio</i> species <i>Photobacterium damselae</i> , (formerly <i>V. damsela</i>); <i>Grimontia hollisae</i> (formerly <i>V. hollisae</i>); | X | | | X |
| Viral hemorrhagic fevers | X | X | | | Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Machupo Lujó, new world Arená, or Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever viruses | X | X | X | |
| West Nile virus (disease due to) | | | X | | West Nile virus | X | | | X |
| Yellow fever | X | X | | | Yellow fever virus | X | | X | |
| Zika fever *5 | X | | | | Zika fever virus *5 | X | X | | |

*1 through *22 No change.

*23— Special reporting requirements for COVID-19: Results should be reported and accompanied by any testing conducted (positive and negative results). For laboratories performing electronic laboratory reporting as described in subsection 64D-3.031(5), F.A.C., all test results (positive and negative) are to be submitted, including screening test results (positive and negative).

Rulemaking Authority 381.001(2), 381.003(2), 381.003(8), 384.33, 392.53(2), 392.66 FS. Law Implemented 381.001(3), (4), 381.003(1), 381.003(2), (4), (5), (6), (8), 383.06, 384.25, 385.202, 392.53 FS. History—New 11-20-06, Amended 11-24-08, 6-4-14, 10-20-16, _____.

THIS RULE TAKES EFFECT UPON BEING FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNLESS A LATER TIME AND DATE IS SPECIFIED IN THE RULE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 10, 2020

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:24 AM

To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>

Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>

Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Yes, the Mets are in conversation.

Helen Aguirre Ferre
Director of Communications
Governor Ron DeSantis
(850)717-9290
(850)717-9282
@HelenAguirreFer

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Wanted to clarify here. Did you mean that MLB is starting to talk about fan-less spring training in Florida?

I have seen they are discussing in Arizona, but have not yet seen Florida so wanted to make sure.

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Will have to get back to you on that. I can tell you that other sports franchises, such as major league baseball are in conversations to discuss the possibility of starting spring training which would not be open to the public to attend.

Helen Aguirre Ferre
Director of Communications
Governor Ron DeSantis
(850)717-9290
(850)717-9282
@HelenAguirreFer

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Who asked to consider WWE for exemption?

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FW: WWE Statement

Hi Matt, WWE is not mentioned by name:

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of which are closed to the general public, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, only if the location is closed to the general public.

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

From: McCloud, Cody
To: Mahon, Jason
Subject: FW: WWE
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:26:00 AM

From: Ash, Ryan <Ryan.Ash@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Maxwell, S. <SMaxwell@orlandosentinel.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>; Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE

Hey Scott, please see below from the Governor's Office:

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, **to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;**
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of **which are closed to the general public**, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, **only if the location is closed to the general public.**

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

Additionally:

The memo is not specific to the WWE. The memo provides professional sports organizations the ability to continue operations when they deem appropriate, as long as the location is closed to the general public. This is to the benefit of employees who work at these locations who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The Governor also discussed at today's press conference which can be found here: <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/4-14-20-press-conference-on-coronavirus-covid-19/>

From: Maxwell, S. <SMaxwell@orlandosentinel.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:16 PM

To: Media <Media@eog.myflorida.com>

Subject: WWE

Good afternoon.

I was hoping to understand why WWE wrestling events (or any "professional sports ... closed to the general public") are now considered an "essential service."

I was also wondering: How do you explain to the thousands of Florida businesses that are now shuttered and laying off employees that their business was less "essential" than this wrestling event?

And finally, I was wondering if you could tell me who, if anyone, from WWE (or on behalf of WWE), contacted the state to ensure this additional exemption allowing live wrestling came to be.

Thanks, Scott

Scott Maxwell

"Taking Names" columnist

Orlando Sentinel Media Group

633 North Orange Avenue | Orlando | Florida | 32801

:: w 407 420 6141

:: twitter @Scott_Maxwell

From: Mahon, Jason
To: Gambineri, Mara
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Deadline: Possible NPR interview
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:58:49 PM

Please see below. I'm calling you

From: Paola Ortiz <POrtiz@npr.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Moskowitz, Jared <jared.Moskowitz@em.myflorida.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Deadline: Possible NPR interview

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Mr. Moskowitz,

My name is Paola Ortiz, I'm writing on behalf of **NPR's Morning Edition** in Washington, D.C.

I was wondering if you were available for a quick 15 minute interview over the phone about the WWE being considered an essential business in Florida.

The interview will be pre-recorded and edited for a tape and copy airing tomorrow.

If you are available, feel free to email me or reach me at my cell 787-564-8561.

Thank you,

Paola Ortiz | morning edition | POrtiz@npr.org | desk 202-513-3932 | cell: 787-564-8561

NPR reaches almost 40 million listeners on more than 1,000 radio stations across the United States.

Under Florida law, correspondence with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is neither confidential nor exempt pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, is a public record made available upon request.

Under Florida law, correspondence with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is neither confidential nor exempt pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, is a public record made available upon request.

From: [Marquez, Jonas](#)
To: [Ferre, Helen](#); [Beatrice, Meredith M.](#)
Cc: [McCloud, Cody](#); [Ash, Ryan](#)
Bcc: [Mahon, Jason](#)
Subject: Press Conference Transcript
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 5:36:00 PM
Attachments: [Press Conference Regarding COVID-19 - 4.14.20.docx](#)

Team,

Please see attached.

Jonas

Press Conference Regarding COVID-19 – 4.14.20

Gov. DeSantis:

00:01

Good afternoon. I have good news. As of today, there have been 52,021 paycheck protection program loans approved for small businesses throughout the state of Florida. The total amount of that is \$12.5 billion. That's an unprecedented sum. The money has not been distributed yet. The feds are working on that, but everything's teed up and ready to go. Um, and I think that that will be a really important lifeline for Florida small businesses who have really been hit hard by, by this downturn. Uh, we also have another exciting announcement today in the realm of PPE, the personal protective equipment that is so important for our first responders and our healthcare workers. Uh, today, uh, in consultation with the white house, uh, we have received or will receive a total of 1 million N95 masks. Those are probably the most sought after piece of PPE right now. There's obviously been a worldwide run on that. Uh, working with the white house, they've, uh, uh, earmarked us a million. We have 800,000 of that shipment in hand. Um, Jared Moskowitz, the head of the department of emergency management is deploying that 800,000, uh, masks to, uh, our, our frontline hospitals and healthcare workers. Uh, I wanna thank the white house for their responsiveness. When this all started, uh, we had had millions of these masks ordered. We'd be told they would be delivered on Friday. Then you'd go and they disappear. Oh, next Wednesday you go, they disappear. It's been a real, real problem how the secondary markets were. Uh, but I'm glad we were able to work this out with the white house. I've also been in contact with the CEO of 3m. Uh, now they don't usually distribute, they have distributors. Uh, but he has pledged his support so that we can continue to get the PPE that Florida needs. I want to thank, uh, the CEO 3m for being responsive to our concerns. Uh, in addition to those masks, uh, Florida's emergency management department, we making a delivery over the next 36 hours of even more PPE. Uh, this delivery will include another 1.2 million procedure masks, 100,000 face shields, 500,000 gloves, 60,000 containers of hand sanitizer, 35,000 gowns, which, uh, those are very much, um, in need. So with this push, uh, the state will have distributed 8 million masks, five and a half million gloves, 564,000 shoe covers, 615,000 face shields, 300,000 gowns, more than a hundred thousand containers of hand sanitizer, 47,000 goggles and 22,000 cover all. So that is a massive, uh, amount of equipment. Uh, it's more than the division has ever done in Florida's history, very complicated. Uh, there's been a worldwide run on all this stuff. So I want to thank Jared for, for his good work. Um, and I want to thank all the truck drivers, all our national guards, men and women and employees at the Florida department of health and division of emergency management. They're working 24, seven to efficiently move

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these critical resources throughout our state. And it's very important for the work that's being done.

Gov. DeSantis:

03:24

We have great news yesterday and announcement about our national guard strike teams. They had been doing this, uh, periodically throughout the nursing homes. It was very effective. Uh, so we wanted to expand that. Uh, so we have 10 teams of four soldiers each. They're actively testing, uh, today they've already taken samples from 500 people. Um, and we're looking to be many more. And I've told Jared, uh, we want to expand that as widely as we can. It's very, very important that we focus resources on those people who are the most vulnerable, uh, to COVID-19. And so I want to thank the national guard for really leading the effort on this. We had done a lot early on on the screening and limiting the visitation and that that has been effective. I mean, there were definitely people who were sick who were kept out. Uh, the problem is with the staff, not everyone has symptoms. So you have one staff member who's not symptomatic and they can infect 10, 20 other staff members and obviously that could transfer over to the residents. And so doing this spot testing, uh, is a way to be able to identify that and then prevent a major outbreak in one of these facilities. Testing has been a big priority in the state of Florida. We've tested over 204,000 individuals. Um, in terms of raw numbers, that is number three in the country. Uh, by the end of today, we probably will have about 210,000 results in, uh, that's close to one and every 100 Floridians. Now you look at some of these other countries, I mean very advanced countries like Japan, look at how many they tested vis-a-vis their population. So this is a, a very good ratio. We're going to do even better. Southeast Florida, if you just look at those three counties that have had the most cases, 60% of our cases, we're probably in the range of one test for every 85, uh, residents in Miami, Broward and Palm beach counties. Um, and again, that's something that's very important. So we've been able to get a better baseline about what's happening. Obviously people want to be able to get tested and get results, which is very, very important. Um, some of these countries, Japan didn't even do, do close to this much. South Korea had done one in every 200 when this all started, people said, Oh, if you can test like South Korea then you're going to be able to get COVID-19 under control. So we are continuing to focus on it. Uh, we announced last week the, we're going to continue the three sites in Orlando, Jacksonville in Miami. The federal government was only planning on doing them through April 10th. I think they've been popular. I think we need to do more. It's important that those criteria has really expanded from the start of this. Anybody with Coronavirus symptoms can go to one of those

sites, any healthcare worker, any first responder, if you don't have symptoms, which you've had close contact with, somebody who's recently tested positive for coronavirus, you can go into those sites. And that I think is, is really, really important. And then it also brings up kind of when we get out of this phase and then get into the next phase, what is it going to look like in terms of testing? And I think there has to be an easy way for somebody, if you have a small business and you have 20 employees and someone's coming up with symptoms, they'd be able to go get a test and get an answer in a reasonable amount of time. Uh, so we're working on what that would look like. Um, I've got folks working on a committee, uh, to see, you know, what we can do, uh, to make this testing even more prevalent. Obviously things like the Abbott labs test, which is a five minute test. We, the hospitals, many of the hospitals have them, they're turning out about 1500 to 2000 of the individual cartridges and sending them to each hospital a week. We obviously, you know, we will buy as many as they have, but there's obviously a crush on that, so, so that may be part of it. But even if it's the traditional swab with the lab test, you can get the lab test turned around quicker than I think people can deal with that. It's just if it's five or six days, then it becomes much more difficult. And so we're thinking about how do we use leverage the infrastructure. We've already put in for kind of a phase two where we're having more activity in society but still have to identify who is infected, isolate them, and then trace the contacts. And so you don't have an outbreak in some of these communities. And so we're hoping that we're going to be able to do even more very soon if you have the baseline for testing, uh, the ability to be able to do things I think increases dramatically. And it's very, very important.

Gov. DeSantis:

08:04

The travel update, we've screened almost 20,000 people coming from the New York city area and from new Orleans, mostly from the New York city area. Obviously the top hot zone in the world. Um, and the requirement to self isolate, I think that that's been effective. Um, you don't have that many people coming from that part of the country, um, and, and not have massive outbreaks, um, unless you're doing something. And so I think that that was the right thing to do and I think that it has been effective and I'm glad that we were able to do it. If you look at the, uh, the case total and what's going on throughout the state, uh, we continue to see the bulk of the cases in the three Southeastern Florida counties, Miami Dade, Broward and Palm beach County. Uh, they represent, uh, about 60% of the total cases, more than 60% of the hospitalizations. And so we're obviously working with all those, uh, folks continue to work with those communities. I spoke with all three of the County mayors

today, not only about how things are going, what more we could do to help, but then, you know, they're say they're thinking about the next phase of this as well. What does that look like in Southeast Florida? Is that going to be different than other parts of Florida? Um, you know, we'll see. So we're starting to, to work through and really think, uh, think about that. When this all started, when the president and the task force came out in the middle of March and said, you need to do 15 days, um, to slow the spread. And there was a whole bunch of different measures, uh, mitigation measures and we had obviously done things, even some of the things before that with the elderly and whatnot. Um, and then there were other things that were new in there, but it was obviously a big change for society in many respects. But the reason why they did it, the reason why mitigation measures were put in place was to flatten the curve so that we had enough healthcare resources to be able to treat the people who would be infected by COVID-19. And the fear was at the time, if you didn't do mitigation measures, then the people that would be going into hospitals would overwhelm the hospital system and what obviously you would have fewer resources to treat COVID patients. But then all the other patients, if that system buckled would not get the medical care. And so that would be, you know, a disaster if that were to happen. So that was the number one reason to, to do this. Uh, so here we are now probably a month later. Uh, the bed availability throughout the state of Florida, um, is about 42 and a half percent. To put that in perspective, you go back at the end of February, beginning of March in counties like Dade and Broward, um, you know, their bed availability was probably about 12% at that time. And so you have, we've dramatically increased capacity in terms of bed availability in the hospitals. And I think probably so much so that you're starting to see health care workers who work in other parts of the hospital or healthcare system, you know, get furloughed. Um, and so that's something that we're going to have to contend with cause you're not doing elective surgeries. There's a lot of things that aren't going on. Um, but we're at 42 and a half percent availability throughout the state. Uh, different county's a little different. You have 42% available in Miami Dade, about 41% in Broward, 46% in Palm beach County. So, uh, that has been stable. Uh, we haven't seen very many, uh, very much change, um, in that I think it's been pretty steady as she goes. That obviously is going to be one of the key indicators in terms of what's happening in the state of Florida. So we want to thank everybody who's working, who are working in those hospitals for all the great care they're given to folks. Uh, we are offering updates on our fight, uh, for, uh, COVID-19. And so if you are interested, uh, you can text FLCOVID-19 to eight, eight, eight,

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seven, seven, seven. Uh, there'll be periodic updates about what's going on if there's a new testing site open, if there's something else that's been done. Uh, and again, that's Florida COVID-19 to eight, eight, eight, seven, seven, seven. I want to thank everybody for all their hard work. I think progress has been made. I think a lot of communities are doing really good. Um, we really appreciate, uh, everyone, uh, for what they're doing. I'm gonna let Jared say a few things and then we'll take a few questions.

Dir. Moskowitz:

12:22

Thank you Governor. You know, before I talk about what the divisions working on, I just want to continue to thank, uh, the doctors and the nurses and all the folks, uh, in the hospital that have been on the front lines. I mean, not only are we see are they dealing with COVID-19, uh, but they're also dealing with, uh, you know, the situation in which there are loved ones in these hospitals that can't be visited by their family members because of how this virus works. And they're the ones who are also having to help them, uh, you know, through that process. And so I think we should just recognize that it's not just, it's not just the medical attention that they're performing, they're performing an emotional, uh, function as well because of how this virus works. And so I just want to thank again, all the doctors and all the nurses and all the hospital workers for everything they're doing, they, they really are the true heroes of what's been going on. Uh, as the governor talked about, uh, based on, uh, the, the push of PPE today, uh, that'll take us to, uh, 8 million, uh, masks, five and a half million gloves, 564,000 shoe covers, 615,000 face shields, 300,000 gowns, uh, over a hundred thousand containers of hand sanitizer, 47,000 goggles and 22,000 coveralls, which are basically like Tyvek suits. And so, uh, we are continuing to push out, uh, all sorts of different PPE. Uh, obviously the burn rates continue to change. We're continuing to analyze that, uh, as, as we decide where it needs to go. But this is a 24 hour operation. We're going to be, we run stuff all night, all day, and we're pushing directly to where it needs to go directly to the front lines, directly to the hospitals, the nursing homes, uh, and to our, into our first responders, police and fire and so, uh, you know, yesterday I talked about how this is a, this is a 50 state disaster. It's the first time in us history that we've had a 50 state disaster declaration. Uh, I wanna thank the governor for sending a letter to the president, uh, asking for a hundred percent, uh, reimbursement. Uh, as many of you know, obviously cause we deal with this with hurricanes, when we get a disaster declaration, it starts out at 75% reimbursement, 25% local cost share. And so this is not a state disaster. This is a national disaster. And so I wanna thank uh, the governor for, for requesting that of, of the president.

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Cause that's a big deal. That's a big deal to these hospitals. It's a big deal to these cities and counties who, let's not forget if dealt with four years of hurricanes here. Uh, and so that, that, that is definitely, uh, definitely needed and the division is still functioning, uh, in its, in its regular daily activity. So even while we're doing, uh, the COVID-19 response, we are still getting money out the door because we know as we get into hurricane season how important it's going to be, uh, to these cities and counties for reimbursement. You know, as they analyze what sort of lost revenue they may have, uh, from, uh, from COVID-19. Testing. Uh, we are continuing to expand testing. I think the governor will have additional announcements this week. Uh, we are working on expanding testing in a number of different areas, a number of different neighborhoods, even changing kind of how, uh, the mode of, of how you get tested, whether that's a walkup versus a potential, uh, drive through. So we look forward, uh, to the governor's, uh, efforts on that and, and leading and we appreciate everything he's doing. And so, uh, again, it's social distancing. Uh, the mitigation measures are, we're working, we are flattening that curve. Florida has a good story to tell on what's been working. And so, uh, we have to stay the course. Remember April 30th, uh, is the 30 days to stop the spread. And so, uh, even while we talk about, uh, the good news that is happening here in the state of Florida, you know, we still need people to continue, uh, the social distancing and, and you know, we're mindful, uh, that there are still many families out there that are suffering, uh, with this and have loved ones in hospitals. And so, um, you know, as we talk about that good news, we're not turning the page on anybody. And so it's important that we continue to focus on the folks that you know, are dealing with COVID-19. So governor, thank you.

Reporter: 16:16

Everyone's still getting questions about unemployment, the website's still crashing, the phones not being answered. Is this a crutch?

Gov. DeSantis: 16:29

I'm not sure, I mean, so we still have over a thousand people answering the phones. Um, I can, we pulled the thing about the wait times, I mean that that has improved dramatically. We were, we're getting huge numbers of people through the Pega website. Um, that obviously is going to be migrated through the connect system, which, you know, it's got to do the verification, social security, all these other things. I can also report that, um, uh, the first federal checks are going out today. Uh, so people are going to start seeing that \$600 federally, um, and we're gonna get those in the hopper and can get those out. So there's going to be a priority on doing that as well. So, um, you know, you're in a situation where people are now going through this,

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this Pega site. Um, I think that that's probably the best solution. Of course there was 60 servers brought in. Um, there's a whole bunch of things done. Um, so I think that there's a way to migrate that through process that, um, and I said, I talked to Lawson today and I said, you know, we wanna we want to turn this stuff around and usually takes three weeks. I said, we gotta we gotta be better than that cause his folks are going to be, um, you know, going to be looking for the support. So there is an end we do or we're having even more folks from all these other agencies. Uh, we've identified 2000 you've had a number of them have come in, you know, they're doing things when we've gotten paper applications because of the FedEx thing. So you have people that are processing those, um, for you take out an agency. This has been like a dramatic increase in. So I think it's something that's very important and that's something that we're putting off a lot of effort into.

Reporter: 17:55

Matt Gaetz put up tweet that said that he, that you actually, you are working on a program to auto enroll some of these people that have been laid off, you know, in mass, uh, Disney, the 43,000 universal studios, it might be a way to actually get them in faster than having to apply. I don't know if you can expand.

Gov. DeSantis: 18:11

Yeah, so basically, I mean we got the notice that with Disney that they were going to furlough like 70,000 and they had been paying them through March and early April. But I think that's coming to an end. Uh, sometime this week or beginning of next. And so we basically said, okay, you know, there's, this system's getting crushed so we know this is coming. So is there a way we can get ahold of it? Maybe get the data directly from the employer and then go ahead and put it through because you know, we can put it through at like three in the morning and stuff when there's not other people doing it. So I think it, I think it would make sense. I think it would probably be easier for everyone now. They wouldn't get any special place in line, like whoever's applied, you know, it's going to go through that way. Uh, but I think when, you know, you're going to have a massive amount of people from one employer and that's announced. If we can work with them to get that information and get it through the system, I think that will probably be better, uh, for everyone. So, so yeah, we're, we're open to doing that. We're working to try to do it.

Reporter: 19:03

What are you telling people that are out there that have been repeatedly still trying to access...

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Gov. DeSantis: 19:07 We had, I mean if you look, we have now had, we've had hundreds of thousands of successful submissions. So there's a lot of this is being processed. Um, there's been an extraordinary amount of man hours that have been put into it. We deal with it every single day, uh, prodding for improvements, um, any way we can. Um, so I, I think you're going to the federal money, you're gonna start seeing that today. You're going to see more of that. Um, you know, I said I want to clear this, this out as quickly as possible. The federal is actually going to be a hard check, uh, that people are going to get. The state portion, which is obviously smaller, can be either direct deposit or a debit card. And so there's going to be kind of different means in terms of that. Uh, but those federal, the federal money will be a hard check.

Reporter: 19:59 Some people say they're being denied..

Gov. DeSantis: 20:00 Who's that?

Reporter: 20:00 Gig workers.

Gov. DeSantis: 20:00 So gig workers, I don't know if they qualify under Florida's existing law, but they do qualify for the \$600 federal. So that is absolutely...

Reporter: 20:10 So how are they going to get that state money if they are denied state unemployment?

Gov. DeSantis: 20:10 No, no. So I just talked to Lawson about it today. And, um, it's so when you're, when you're processing it, it, there, there may be certain groups where there's a, where there's a different calculation. So they understand that and they understand that the gig workers do, uh, do qualify for the \$600, uh, federal money. Why they did it through the state unemployment system. I will never understand that. It just seems like you're adding additional bureaucracy to this, but that's what they did. So that's what we're going to end up doing. Yeah. No, people are people who are applying through it and, and then they, um, you know, they, they get it processed. So that's what, uh, so there's, uh, you have the gig workers obviously the traditional unemployment, people that qualify the state will qualify. The federal is more liberal than what the state is. And so there may be people that get to 600 who don't get the the other, I think most people in Florida are going to get both. But there may be some that do not.

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Reporter: 21:10 What do you think about the President saying he is going to reopen the states? Have you spoken with neighboring States for trying to get a regional approach to eventual reopening time? What do you know?

Gov. DeSantis: 21:18 It's interesting. I um, I watched the briefings, um, and you go back a week or two and he was being badgered by the press there for why aren't you shutting down these States? South Dakota doesn't have stay at home and you know, whatever. And they were badgering about it and he said, you know, no, it's their decision now they're saying you don't have the authority. I don't know. It's one or the other. I mean I think, I think functionally, here's, here's the thing. So when they extended the guidelines as safe did not have to continue with mitigation, like the state could have done their own thing. But practically speaking, once that happened, you were just not going to be in a situation where you were going to quote open up. I mean that was just the reality. So yes, he could, he could get rid of the guidelines. Does that mean a state has to follow exactly. But what's going to happen is you are going to have people start to move in that direction. Um, and so just as the extension I think led to the continued mitigation, if he decides to lift that or do more, uh, liberal guidelines, then I think you're going to see the States inevitably follow because once one or two States does it, um, you know, the other States are going to kind of be at a disadvantage. So, but I will say this in terms of the state's authority, um, just cause there's an emergency that does not give a governor unlimited authority. And you see some of the things that's going on in, uh, throughout the country. You have, uh, people driving in, in a drive through church service. They're not leaving their car, they're not coming into contact with anybody. They're turning on the radio, they're listening to a sermon and they're getting fined by, by the government. Um, I don't think that that's, that, that's acceptable. I mean, I don't think that that you cannot deny someone a constitutional right if what they're doing has no impact whatsoever on this infectious disease. And the fact of the matter is if someone drives their car, sits in a parking lot, listens, listens to the good news and goes home that has zero impact. So some of this stuff I think is petty tyranny. I think it's been a huge mistake. And what we've tried to do here is respect people. Obviously there's a lot of inconveniences with, with this situation we find ourselves in but to do things like that. Um, I think, I think some governors have definitely overstep their bounds.

Reporter: 23:39 Bridge loan programs. People are frustrated, that it's going away after it reached out, it's max amount. Any thought of expanding that?

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Gov. DeSantis: 23:47 Well we're looking at the options. I know there's some options with SBA, but look, we have the people that are going to get who, who have gotten hit the hardest with this are folks who are more blue collar and some of the blue collar jobs, some of the service jobs, those are not necessarily people that are making a quarter of a million dollars a year. Many of those people that work paycheck to paycheck, um, and so, so, so they're going to need to be able to get on their feet. Hopefully that means that we'll have a light at the end of the tunnel where they have a job to go back to. But these small businesses who employ a lot of people in Florida, I mean for all the talk about the Disney and this type of, of company, most of these people are working for small and medium sized business. The small businesses have taken it on the chin. And so I think that we, we went for the \$50 million bridge loan very early. Uh, this, these, uh, the, the PPP loans, the federal loans, paycheck protection. Uh, I think that that's been very popular. Hopefully that will end up making a big difference. I think they're going to do round two on that, uh, which will be important. And then we obviously we'll see what we could do. The way I view it is some of these businesses, if they don't have the ability to just get through this period, financially may never come back. Um, and I think that that would be a loss for the state of Florida.

Reporter: 25:00 There have been calls to continue keeping schools distance learning through the end of the year. You said I think last week...

Gov. DeSantis: 25:10 We've talked about it. We haven't made a decision yet. I mean obviously it's going to be based on safety. It's going to be based on consultation with folks and in, uh, the superintendents, the parents. And so we're just in a situation where, you know, we've got to see where we're going. Um, it doesn't mean that they are going to go back. Um, but I think we just need to get down this road a little bit further and part of what we're going to be doing, and I'll be announcing probably this week, uh, we're creating a task force on what the phase two looks like. What, what does a reopening look like? And that's, they're going to deal with issues like education. It's not just going back to school, you know, at the end of may for a couple of weeks talking about what's the fall semester going to look like for K-12, what's it going to look like for our universities? What would need to be in place? I mean, we're assuming, um, you know, maybe there'll be an antiviral developed, um, you know, we don't know how this thing is gonna. Is there going to be this wave? And then a second wave comes back in the fall. So there's a lot of things that, that you need to be prepared for. So they're going to look at all this stuff with education. They're going to look at all with

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different sectors of the economy. Um, you know, what is, what does a restaurant, uh, look like kind of in this, in, in this era going forward. Uh, what are some of the other things that, that people kind of took for granted? I mean, you know, some of the things that have been done throughout the country, um, you know, closing the gyms. I mean that's kind of like a textbook thing CDC recognized and I get like you could get germs and stuff, but I also understand the number one group of people who have been susceptible to COVID-19. If you look in New York and some of these other obesity is like the number one factor in whether you really get hit hard by COVID-19. And so my, my fear has been kind of in the last month and continue going. You know, I wonder how the physical activity has been, we've got to figure out a way to get people to be able to, you know, enjoy the outdoors to be able to get out of the house, to be able to get to, so there's whole bunch of things. It's not just this business or that it's the education, it's the, it's the, the quality of life. It's, it's exercise and health, uh, mental health. Some of the things that are going to be, uh, growing out of this, one, we don't know for sure because this has really never been tried in modern America before. But, but there are obviously going to be second order effects and um, and those are going to be things that we're going to have to deal with here in the state of Florida.

- Reporter: 27:26 (Nursing home communities testing question)
- Gov. DeSantis: 27:27 Yeah, yeah. I mean I haven't, I haven't made a decision on it. Uh, I know that they, some folks asked me about that. I think we're, it's under review. I haven't made any decisions yet on that. It's under review. I haven't made any decisions on it and we'll look, I know New York did it and some other States have done it. Uh, but, but we haven't made any decision yet here.
- Reporter: 27:55 Governor are you willing to look at other types of business for exemptions to essential businesses like you've given WWE for example the ability to function.
- Gov. DeSantis: 28:04 So as people, so you know, the Disney asked to have some of the gardening people be able to go cause they have all the millions of dollars worth of stuff there and it would just go bad. And then we said, okay, is there going to be social distance yet people are to go out, work themselves. Obviously WWE, there's no crowd or anything. So it's a very, very small number of people. Uh, so, so we just kind of look at it on a case by case basis. We haven't had a huge, uh, amount of requests. I mean, so I think a lot of this will just be, you know, what do we look like in May, uh, with some of this rather than being able to do

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stuff. Now the one thing though I do support is, um, I think that we do need to, to support like content, like especially like sports and events and we're not going to have crowds there. I get that. But if we can do, like if NASCAR does a race and can televise it, um, without having large crowds, I think that's a good thing. Uh, I'd like to see Woods and Mickelson do the golf or whatever, cause that's social distance. You wouldn't have a gallery there, you wouldn't have crowds. But to put that on TV, I think people have been starved for content. I mean, we haven't had a lot of new content since the beginning of March. Uh, here we are now, uh, or the middle of March. Here we are the middle of April. And if people are, you know, being told to, to stay closer to the house, it sure does help to have some fresh things, uh, to be able to do. And I think people are chomping at the bit. I mean, if you think about it we've never had a period like this, uh, in modern American history where you've had such little new content, particularly in the, in the sporting realm. I mean people are watching, you know, we're watching like reruns from like, uh, you know, the early 2000s watching Tom Brady do the Superbowl then, which is neat cause going to be in Tampa. And I think they got a chance to do, to, to, to win a Superbowl this year. Um, but, but I think people, you know, to be able to have some light at the end of the tunnel, see the things may make it back on a better course. I think from just a, a psychological perspective, I think is, I think it's a good thing.

From: Beatrice, Meredith M.
To: McCloud, Cody; Schmitt, Christina; Mahon, Jason; Ash, Ryan; Ferre, Helen; Gambineri, Mara
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: WWE Statement
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:42:55 PM

Thanks Cody – the below version you forwarded is approved.

From: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:39 PM
To: Beatrice, Meredith M. <Meredith.M.Beatrice@eog.myflorida.com>; Schmitt, Christina <Christina.Schmitt@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: WWE Statement

From: Gambineri, Mara <Mara.Gambineri@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:40 PM
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: WWE Statement

Matt,

COVID-19 is a reportable disease and as such, the Department asked that all testing (both positive and negative) be reported to FDOH via the first LINE: "Any case, cluster of cases, outbreak, or exposure to an infectious or non-infectious disease, condition, or agent found in the general community or any defined setting such as a hospital, school or other institution, not listed in this rule that is of urgent public health significance. This includes human cases, clusters, or outbreaks spread person-to-person, by animals or vectors or from an environmental, food or waterborne source of exposure; those that result from a deliberate act of terrorism; and unexplained deaths possibly due to unidentified infectious or chemical causes."

By adding a specific requirement for COVID-19, we are clarifying this position formally and requiring all testing to be reported to the Department. Throughout our response to COVID-19, private labs have been reporting both positives and negatives consistently. This applies to all labs – public and private.

From: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Mahon, Jason <Jason.Mahon@em.myflorida.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: WWE Statement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Can you call me on this

Cody McCloud
Press Secretary
Governor Ron DeSantis
(850) 241-3728

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

I've reached out to DOH also, but wanted to see if you guys had thoughts on DOH emergency rule posted today.

If I reading correctly, it requires private labs to report all tests (positive and negative) immediately, as opposed to only positive test results which was case under previous rule.

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Disease Control

RULE NO.: 64DER20-26
RULE TITLE: Diseases or Conditions to be Reported

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR FINDING AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE: Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms similar to those of influenza. COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality and presents a severe danger to public health. The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On March 1, 2020, a Public Health Emergency was declared by the Surgeon General to exist statewide in accordance with Executive Order 20-51. On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring that a state of emergency exists in the State of Florida. Therefore, there is an immediate need to adopt rules setting forth the procedures to control the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING THAT THE PROCEDURE USED IS FAIR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES: COVID-19 presents a public health threat to the state of Florida. The Surgeon General has declared a statewide Public Health Emergency due to the spread of COVID-19. There is an immediate need to set forth procedures for the control of this communicable disease in the State of Florida.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE: Emergency rule 64DER20-26 (64D-3.029) requires immediate reporting of suspected or confirmed cases and both positive and negative test results of Coronavirus (COVID-19) by physicians, hospitals, and laboratories.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE EMERGENCY RULE IS: Carina Blackmore, Florida Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1703, (850)245-4732.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE EMERGENCY RULE IS:

- 64DER20-26 (64D-3.029) Diseases or Conditions to be Reported.
(1) through (2) No change
(3) "Table of Reportable Diseases or Conditions to Be Reported"

| Reportable Diseases or Conditions | Practitioner Reporting | | | | Evidence of current or recent infection with etiologic agents and all associated testing results performed should be reported (e.g. species, serogroup, serotype, and antimicrobial susceptibility *2 results) | Laboratory Reporting | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|---|--|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|
| | Suspect immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day | Other | | Submit isolates or specimens for confirmation *1 | Suspect immediately | Immediately | Next Business Day | Other |
| Any case, cluster of cases, outbreak, or exposure to an infectious disease, condition, or agent found in the general community or any defined setting such as a hospital, school or other institution, not listed in this rule that is of urgent public health significance. This includes human cases, clusters, or outbreaks spread person-to-person, by animals or vectors or from an environmental, food or waterborne source of exposure; those that result from a deliberate act of terrorism; and unexplained deaths possibly due to unidentified infectious or chemical causes. | X | X | | | Detection in one or more specimens of etiologic agents of a disease or condition not listed in this Rule that is of urgent public health significance. This includes the identification of etiologic agents that are suspected to be the cause of clusters, or outbreaks spread person-to-person, by animals or vectors or from an environmental, food, or waterborne source of exposure; those that result from a deliberate act of terrorism; and unexplained deaths due to unidentified infectious or chemical causes. | | X | X | | |
| Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) | | | | 2 weeks | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Amebic Encephalitis | | X | | | <i>Naegleria fowleri</i> , <i>Balamuthia mandrillaris</i> , or <i>Acanthamoeba</i> species | | | X | | |
| Anthrax | X | X | | | <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Antimicrobial resistance surveillance | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Antimicrobial resistance surveillance (for organisms not otherwise listed in this table), <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> , <i>Citrobacter</i> species, <i>Enterococcus</i> species, <i>Enterobacter</i> species, <i>Escherichia coli</i> species, <i>Klebsiella</i> | | | | | X |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------|--|---|---|---|--|----------|
| | | | | | species, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , <i>Serratia</i> species, isolated from a normally sterile site *3 | | | | | |
| Arsenic Poisoning *4a | | | X | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | | | X |
| Arboviral infections, not otherwise listed in this table (disease due to) *5 | X | | | | Including but not limited to: Flaviviridae, Togaviridae (e.g. chikungunya, Western equine encephalitis), Bunyaviridae (e.g. Heartland, Rift Valley Fever) *5 | X | X | | | |
| Babesiosis | | | X | | <i>Babesia</i> spp. | X | | | | X |
| Botulism, foodborne, other (includes wound and unspecified) | X | X | | | <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> or botulinum toxin | X | X | X | | |
| Botulism, infant | | | X | | <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> or botulinum toxin | X | | | | X |
| Brucellosis | X | X | | | <i>Brucella</i> species | X | X | X | | |
| California serogroup viruses-(disease due to) | | | X | | California serogroup viruses such as Jamestown Canyon, Keystone, and Lacrosse | X | | | | X |
| Campylobacteriosis *4b | | | X | | <i>Campylobacter</i> species *4b | | | | | X |
| Cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancer, and including benign and borderline Intracranial and CNS tumors) *6 | | | | 6 months | Pathological or tissue diagnosis of cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancer and including benign and borderline intracranial and CNS tumors) | | | | | 6 months |
| Carbon monoxide poisoning | | | X | | A volume fraction \geq 0.09 (9%) of carboxyhemoglobin in blood | | | | | X |
| CD-4 absolute count and percentage of total lymphocytes | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | CD-4 absolute count and percentage of total lymphocytes *7 | | | | | 3 days |
| Chancroid | | | X | | <i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i> | | | | | X |
| Chlamydia *8 | | | X | | <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | | | | | X |
| Cholera | X | X | | | <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Ciguatera fish poisoning | | | X | | Ciguatera fish poisoning | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Congenital anomalies *9 | | | | 6 months | Congenital anomalies | Laboratory tests as specified in Rule 64D-3.035, F.A.C. | | | | |
| Conjunctivitis in neonates < 14 days old | | | X | | Conjunctivitis in neonates < 14 days old | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Coronavirus (COVID-19) *23 | | X | | | Coronavirus (COVID-19) *23 | | | X | | |
| Creutzfeld-Jakob disease (CID) *10 | | | X | | 14-3-3 or tau protein detection in CSF or immunohistochemical test or any brain pathology suggestive of CID *10 | | | | | X |
| Cryptosporidiosis *4b | | | X | | <i>Cryptosporidium</i> species *4b | | | | | X |
| Cyclosporiasis | | | X | | <i>Cyclospora cayentanensis</i> | X | | | | X |
| Dengue *5 | X | | | | Dengue virus *5 | X | X | | | |
| Diphtheria | X | X | | | <i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Eastern equine encephalitis | | | X | | Eastern equine encephalitis virus | X | | | | X |
| Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis | | | X | | <i>Anaplasma</i> species or <i>Ehrlichia</i> species | X | | | | X |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> Shiga toxin-producing (disease due to) *4b | | | X | | <i>Escherichia coli</i> Shiga toxin-producing *4b | X | | | | X |
| Giardiasis (acute) *4b | | | X | | <i>Giardia</i> species *4b | | | | | X |
| Glanders | X | X | | | <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Gonorrhea *8 | | | X | | <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> | | | | | X |
| Granuloma inguinale | | | X | | <i>Calymmatobacterium granulomatis</i> | | | | | X |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , meningitis and invasive | X | X | | | <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , all ages, isolated from a | X | X | X | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| disease, in children < 5 years old | | | | | normally sterile site *11 | | | | | |
| Hansen disease (Leprosy) | | | X | | <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i> | | | | X | |
| Hantavirus infection | | X | | | <i>Hantavirus</i> | X | | X | | |
| Hemolytic uremic syndrome | | X | | | Not Applicable | | | | | |
| Hepatitis A *4b, 12 | | X | | | Hepatitis A*4b, 12 | | | X | | |
| Hepatitis B, C, D, E and G *12 | | | X | | Hepatitis B, C, D, E and G Virus *12 | | | | X | |
| Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive in a pregnant woman or a child up to 24 months old | | | X | | Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) | | | | X | |
| Herpes B virus, possible exposure | | X | | | Herpes B virus, possible exposure | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Herpes simplex virus (HSV) in infants up to 60 days old with disseminated infection with involvement of liver, encephalitis and infections limited to skin, eyes and mouth *13 | | | X | | HSV 1 or HSV 2 by direct FA, PCR, DNA or Culture *13 | | | | X | |
| HSV – anogenital in children < 12 years of age *8, 13 | | | X | | HSV 1 or HSV 2 by direct FA, PCR, DNA or Culture *13 | | | | X | |
| Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection | | | | 2 weeks | Repeatedly reactive enzyme immunoassay, followed by a positive confirmatory tests, (e.g. Western Blot, IFA); Positive result on any HIV virologic test (e.g. p24 AG, Nucleic Acid Test (NAT/NAAT) or viral culture). All viral load (detectable and undetectable) test results.*14, 15 | | | | | 3 days |
| Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Exposed Newborn – infant < 18 months of age born to a HIV infected woman | | | X | | All HIV test results (e.g., positive or negative Immunoassay, positive or negative virologic tests) for those < 18 months of age | | | | | 3 days |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) associated laryngeal papillomas or recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in children < 6 years of age *8 | | | X | | HPV DNA | | | | X | |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) – anogenital papillomas in children < 12 years of age *8 | | | X | | HPV DNA | | | | X | |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | HPV DNA *3 | | | | X | |
| Influenza due to novel or pandemic strains | X | X | | | Isolation of Influenza virus from humans of a novel or pandemic strain | X | X | X | | |
| Influenza-associated pediatric mortality in persons aged < 18 years | | X | | | Influenza virus – associated pediatric mortality in persons aged < 18 years (if known) | X | | X | | |
| Influenza | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Influenza virus, all test results (positive and negative); *3 | | | | X | |
| Lead poisoning *4, 16 | | | X | | All blood lead test results (positive and negative); *3, 4, 16 | | | | X | |
| Legionellosis | | | X | | <i>Legionella</i> species | | | | X | |
| Leptospirosis | | | X | | <i>Leptospira</i> species | | | | X | |
| Listeriosis | | X | | | <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> | X | | X | | |
| Lyme disease | | | X | | <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i> | | | | X | |
| Lymphogranuloma Venereum (LGV) | | | X | | <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> | | | | X | |
| Malaria | | | X | | <i>Plasmodium</i> species | X | | | X | |
| Measles (Rubella) | X | X | | | Measles virus *16 | X | X | X | | |
| Melioidosis | X | X | | | <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Meningitis, bacterial or | | | X | | Isolation or demonstration of any bacterial or fungal | | | | X | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|----------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| mycotic | | | | | species in cerebrospinal fluid | | | | | |
| Meningococcal disease | X | X | | | <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> | X | | X | | |
| Mercury poisoning *4a | | | | X | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | | | X |
| Mumps | | | | X | Mumps virus | | | | | X |
| Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome *18 | | | | 6 months | Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Neurotoxic shellfish poisoning | | X | | | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4a | | | X | | |
| Pertussis | | X | | | <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> | | | X | | |
| Pesticide-related illness and injury *4 | | | | X | Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4 | | | | | X |
| Plague | X | X | | | <i>Yersinia pestis</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Polomyelitis | X | X | | | Poliovirus | X | X | X | | |
| Psittacosis (Ornithosis) | | | | X | <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> | X | | | | X |
| Q Fever | | | | X | <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> | X | | | | X |
| Rabies, animal or human | | X | | | Rabies virus | | X | X | | |
| Rabies, possible exposure *19 | X | X | | | Rabies, possible exposure | Laboratory Reporting Not Applicable | | | | |
| Respiratory syncytial virus | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | Respiratory syncytial virus, all test results (positive and negative) *3 | | | | | X |
| Ricin toxicity | X | X | | | Ricinine (from <i>Ricinus communis</i> castor beans) | X | X | X | | |
| Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other Spotted Fever Rickettsioses | | | | X | <i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i> and other Spotted Fever <i>Rickettsia</i> species | X | | | | X |
| Rubella, including congenital | X | X | | | Rubella virus *17 | X | X | X | | |
| St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) | | | | X | St. Louis encephalitis virus | X | | | | X |
| Salmonellosis *4b | | | | X | <i>Salmonella</i> species *4b | X | | | | X |
| Saxitoxin poisoning including Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) | | | | X | Saxitoxin | | | | | X |
| Severe acute respiratory disease syndrome-associated with a Coronavirus Infection | X | X | | | Coronavirus associated with severe acute respiratory disease | X | X | X | | |
| Shigellosis *4b | | | | X | <i>Shigella</i> species *4b | | | | | X |
| Smallpox | X | X | | | Variola virus [orthopox virus] | X | X | X | | |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> isolated from a normally sterile site | Practitioner Reporting Not Applicable | | | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> isolated from a normally sterile site *3 | | | | | X |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> with intermediate or full resistance to vancomycin (VISA, VRSA) | | X | | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> with intermediate or full resistance to vancomycin (VISA, VRSA); Laboratory results as specified in the surveillance case definition *4 | X | | X | | |
| <i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i> | | X | | | <i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i> | X | | X | | |
| <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease in children < 6 years, drug sensitive and resistant | | | | X | <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , all ages, isolated from a normally sterile site *20 | | | | | X |
| Syphilis | | | | X | <i>Treponema pallidum</i> | | | | | X |
| Syphilis in pregnant women and neonates | | X | | | <i>Treponema pallidum</i> | | | X | | |
| Tetanus | | | | X | <i>Clostridium tetani</i> | | | | | X |
| Trichinellosis (Trichinosis) | | | | X | <i>Trichinella spiralis</i> | | | | | X |
| Tuberculosis (TB) *21 | | | | X | <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex *21 | X | | | | X |
| Tularemia | X | X | | | <i>Francisella tularensis</i> | X | X | X | | |
| Typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever *4b | | X | | | <i>Salmonella enterica</i> serotype Typhi and <i>Salmonella enterica</i> serotypes Paratyphi A, Paratyphi B, and Paratyphi C *4b | X | | X | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Typhus fever (epidemic) | X | X | | <i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> | X | X | X | |
| Vaccinia disease | X | X | | Vaccinia virus | X | X | X | |
| Varicella (Chickenpox) *22 | | | X | Varicella virus | | | | X |
| Varicella mortality | | | X | Varicella virus | | | | X |
| Venezuelan equine encephalitis | X | X | | Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus | X | X | X | |
| Vibriosis (infections by <i>Vibrio</i> species and closely related organisms, other than Cholera) | | | X | All non-cholera <i>Vibrio</i> species <i>Photobacterium damsela</i> , (formerly <i>V. damsela</i>); <i>Grimontia hollisae</i> (formerly <i>V. hollisae</i>) | X | | | X |
| Viral hemorrhagic fevers | X | X | | Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Machupo Lujo, new world Arenas, or Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever viruses | X | X | X | |
| West Nile virus (disease due to) | | | X | West Nile virus | X | | | X |
| Yellow fever | X | X | | Yellow fever virus | X | | X | |
| Zika fever *5 | X | | | Zika fever virus *5 | X | X | | |

*1 through *22 No change.

*23-- Special reporting requirements for COVID-19: Results should be reported and accompanied by any testing conducted (positive and negative results). For laboratories performing electronic laboratory reporting as described in subsection 64D-3.031(5), F.A.C., all test results (positive and negative) are to be submitted, including screening test results (positive and negative).

Rulemaking Authority 381.0011(2), 381.003(2), 381.0031(8), 384.33, 392.53(2), 392.66 FS. Law Implemented 381.0011(3), (4), 381.003(1), 381.0031(2), (4), (5), (6), (8), 383.06, 384.25, 385.202, 392.53 FS. History--New 11-20-06, Amended 11-24-08, 6-4-14, 10-20-16, _____.

THIS RULE TAKES EFFECT UPON BEING FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNLESS A LATER TIME AND DATE IS SPECIFIED IN THE RULE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 10, 2020

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:24 AM
To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Yes, the Mets are in conversation.

Helen Aguirre Ferre
 Director of Communications
 Governor Ron DeSantis
 (850)717-9290
 (850)717-9282
 @HelenAguirreFer

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Wanted to clarify here. Did you mean that MLB is starting to talk about fan-less spring training in Florida?

I have seen they are discussing in Arizona, but have not yet seen Florida so wanted to make sure.

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Will have to get back to you on that. I can tell you that other sports franchises, such as major league baseball are in conversations to discuss the possibility of starting spring training which would not be open to the public to attend.

Helen Aguirre Ferre
Director of Communications
Governor Ron DeSantis
(850)717-9290
(850)717-9282
@HelenAguirreFerre

From: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: WWE Statement

Who asked to consider WWE for exemption?

From: Ferre, Helen <Helen.Ferre@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Matthew Dixon <mdixon@politico.com>
Cc: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FW: WWE Statement

Hi Matt, WWE is not mentioned by name:

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of which are closed to the general public, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, only if the location is closed to the general public.

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

Under Florida law, correspondence with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is neither confidential nor exempt pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, is a public record made available upon request.

From: [McCloud, Cody](#)
To: [Mahon, Jason](#)
Cc: [Gambineri, Mara](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NY Times inquiry: WWE as essential business?
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:19:00 AM

We edited it. Send them this please:

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, **to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;**
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of **which are closed to the general public**, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, **only if the location is closed to the general public.**

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

Cody McCloud
Press Secretary
Governor Ron DeSantis
(850) 241-3728

From: Mahon, Jason <Jason.Mahon@em.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:51 AM
To: McCloud, Cody <Cody.McCloud@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Gambineri, Mara <Mara.Gambineri@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NY Times inquiry: WWE as essential business?

I suggest sending this statement, same one we sent last night:

These essential businesses were added because they are critical to our state, and we expect that these businesses will take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during any activities they undertake. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the location is closed to the general public.

Essential businesses that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, **to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;**
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of **which are closed to the general public**, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, **only if the location is closed to the general public.**

From: Mihir Zaveri <mihir.zaveri@nytimes.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:13 AM

To: media@eog.myflorida.com; EOC-ESF14 <ESF14@em.myflorida.com>; Mahon, Jason <Jason.Mahon@em.myflorida.com>; Bequer, Samantha <Samantha.Bequer@em.myflorida.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NY Times inquiry: WWE as essential business?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, this is Mihir Zaveri, I'm a reporter at The New York Times. I'm writing today about the news that the WWE is now considered an essential business. I see the state's memo on additions to what's considered an essential business: <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Essential-Services-Additions-EO-20-91.pdf>

I had some questions, hoping you could answer today:

- Why the addition of professional sports and media events (#3 on the memo)?
- How is professional wrestling considered essential?
- Is allowing this designation wise, considering professional wrestling is a high contact activity? How is the safety of the public going to be ensured?
- Do you have a sense of how many people would gather for the production of a professional wrestling event? If not, how can you weigh the risks to the public?
- How did this revision come about?
- Did anyone from WWE or associated with WWE push for the change? What other businesses does this affect?
- Was this expansion in effect on April 9?
- How are you enforcing what is considered an essential business or not and that businesses are appropriately complying?

I can be reached at 925 846 2727. Thank you. Writing this story today, so hoping to reach someone as soon as possible.

Mihir

Under Florida law, correspondence with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is neither confidential nor exempt pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, is a public

record made available upon request.

From: [BARBARA RUSHING](#)
To: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com; mavor@ocfl.net
Cc: anna.eskamani.myfloridahouse.gov; bruce.antone.myfloridahouse.gov; district2@ocfl.net; district5@ocfl.net
Subject: Re-commencement of WWE
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:18:22 AM

I would like to register a complaint regarding the reopening of WWE in Central Florida. There is nothing that warrants reopening a contact sport under the severe conditions that we are under with Covid-19. This action is incomprehensible and shows a lack of judgment to the seriousness of the conditions that our community is living through.

With thousands of people's jobs in the tourism industry affected by the closing down of every tourism venue, this gesture seems, at best, misguided. Nothing warrants an early resumption of that type of activity... nothing.

Sincerely,

Barbara Trovillion Rushing
1148 Fern Avenue
Orlando, FL 32814

407.930.3266

From: EOC-ESF14
To: Mihir Zaveri
Cc: Media; Mahon, Jason; Bequer, Samantha
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NY Times inquiry: WWE as essential business?
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:40:36 AM

Hi Mihir,

Essential services that were added under EO 20-91 include:

- Employees at services and programs addressing mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and other urgent counseling, **to the extent those services may be offered within social distancing guidelines;**
- Employees at theme park and entertainment complexes, zoological parks and facilities, and aquarium facilities, all of **which are closed to the general public**, in order to ensure the health, safety and security of persons, animals and property; and
- Employees at professional sports and media production with a national audience, **only if the location is closed to the general public.**

The latter two essential services were added because they are critical to Florida's economy. It is important to note that professional sports activities may only be considered essential if the event location is closed to the general public.

See the memo [HERE](#).

Thanks.

Joint Information Center on COVID-19 for the State of Florida
Florida State Emergency Operations Center
Media Line: 850-921-0217
ESF14@em.myflorida.com

From: Mihir Zaveri <mihir.zaveri@nytimes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:12 AM
To: media@eog.myflorida.com; EOC-ESF14; Mahon, Jason; Bequer, Samantha
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NY Times inquiry: WWE as essential business?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, this is Mihir Zaveri, I'm a reporter at The New York Times. I'm writing today about the news that the WWE is now considered an essential business. I see the state's memo on additions to what's considered an essential business: <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Essential-Services-Additions-EO-20-91.pdf>

I had some questions, hoping you could answer today:

- Why the addition of professional sports and media events (#3 on the memo)?
- How is professional wrestling considered essential?
- Is allowing this designation wise, considering professional wrestling is a high contact activity? How is the safety of the public going to be ensured?
- Do you have a sense of how many people would gather for the production of a professional wrestling event? If not, how can you weigh the risks to the public?
- How did this revision come about?
- Did anyone from WWE or associated with WWE push for the change? What other businesses does this affect?
- Was this expansion in effect on April 9?
- How are you enforcing what is considered an essential business or not and that businesses are appropriately complying?

I can be reached at 925 846 2727. Thank you. Writing this story today, so hoping to reach someone as soon as possible.

Mihir

Under Florida law, correspondence with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, which is neither confidential nor exempt pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 119, is a public record made available upon request.

From: [Jim DeBerry](mailto:Jim_DeBerry)
To: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com
Cc: mayor@ocfl.net
Subject: Selective Enforcement and Undue Burdens of the people
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:41:42 AM

Mr. Governor,

I strongly object your decision to list the WWE in Orlando as Essential Business.

I voted for you. I am hurt by your selective enforcement of the WWE. I cannot say I am proud of your actions against the WWE.

I will share many small businesses owners who are suffering feel the same. Many individuals impacted in Florida will feel you have made a mockery of essential business for profit of big corporations like WWE and the expense of health and small businesses alike.

I never thought I'd say Governor Newsom handled the UFC, ESPN, and even Indian tribunals better than a expert legal attorney like yourself.

1.) There is nothing essential about male actors in Speedo's and Female actors in bra's and panties coming from out of town staying in Orlando, Staying in our apartments and hotels touching against guidelines can heaving sweat touch, breath on each other and risk spreading the disease to their families, our Floridian families, it sets a bad example for the country. This is tamed down theater porn. Is that what you're about?

That WWE "closed set" is a mockery and more excuse to be Essential. I ask that you use reconsider your influence, accept no super pac money from those ahead of the people you serve and it's small businesses that make up Florida.

I Ask that you pick up the phone and communicate to FOX and NBC Universal, that own the networks that WWE receives TV rights from and pressure those networks to not air any new WWE footage taped in Florida during these days.

I ask that you use your influence over full sail and seek this for profit school losses accreditation and any tax benefits it receives for not looking after the best interest of Floridians.

I ask that you communicate with Mayor Jerry Demmings and ask him to use his influence with you.

2.) I am a small business owner that is not permitted to operate, I have been selectively enforced upon with undue burden and sit and watch you to permit the WWE to be enriched and recklessly spread covid-19 against Dr, Faucci's and Brix's wishes.

I am asked to wear mask, strongly implied not to go outside unless it's for essential food. I have been turned away from banks and SBA loans for loans. I will go out of business. I ask that you seek more aid to all ways possibles to assist small business owners impacted. Families like mine is suffering. I would be grateful.

Does the WWE in their Actors in Speedos, Bra and panty like outfits and it's Publicly traded company come ahead us the people serve?

I ask you to move urgently for the small business owner and the people Florida

This email was sent from my iPhone and forwarded.

Sincerely,
Jim DeBerry
407-960-0572

@OCFLMayor @GovRonDeSantis very dissatisfied with the selective enforcement. #WWE deemed #essentialbusiness ! billionaire #coronavirus #bloodmoney over small business' lack of right to operate. undue burden. Small business bankruptcies looming @WFTV @WESH

Good morning, Jim. The WWE taping was the State's decision; not the County's. However, when they did film, they did not have an audience. You can share your concern with the State. Here is their contact info: 850-717-9337 and governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Best Regards,

Jim DeBerry
1-407-960-0572

Sent from my iPhone

Best Regards,

Jim DeBerry
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Cell (407) 960-0572

Website: <http://mistercrabs.com>

Mailing: 2295 S. Hiawassee Rd., Suite 402, Orlando, FL 32835

Crab Race Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buzDh5FnFWg>

60 Second Full Service Video; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGfl1hMGarc>

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marquez, Jonas](#)
To: [Mahon, Jason](#)
Cc: [Bequer, Samantha](#)
Subject: Trapplescript
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:14:00 PM
Attachments: [Press Conference Regarding COVID-19 - 4.14.20.docx](#)

Please see apple crisp attached.

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Gov. DeSantis:

00:01

Good afternoon. I have good news. As of today, there have been 52,021 paycheck protection program loans approved for small businesses throughout the state of Florida. The total amount of that is \$12.5 billion. That's an unprecedented sum. The money has not been distributed yet. The feds are working on that, but everything's teed up and ready to go. Um, and I think that that will be a really important lifeline for Florida small businesses who have really been hit hard by, by this downturn. Uh, we also have another exciting announcement today in the realm of PPE, the personal protective equipment that is so important for our first responders and our healthcare workers. Uh, today, uh, in consultation with the white house, uh, we have received or will receive a total of 1 million N95 masks. Those are probably the most sought after piece of PPE right now. There's obviously been a worldwide run on that. Uh, working with the white house, they've, uh, uh, earmarked us a million. We have 800,000 of that shipment in hand. Um, Jared Moskowitz, the head of the department of emergency management is deploying that 800,000, uh, masks to, uh, our, our frontline hospitals and healthcare workers. Uh, I wanna thank the white house for their responsiveness. When this all started, uh, we had had millions of these masks ordered. We'd be told they would be delivered on Friday. Then you'd go and they disappear. Oh, next Wednesday you go, they disappear. It's been a real, real problem how the secondary markets were. Uh, but I'm glad we were able to work this out with the white house. I've also been in contact with the CEO of 3m. Uh, now they don't usually distribute, they have distributors. Uh, but he has pledged his support so that we can continue to get the PPE that Florida needs. I want to thank, uh, the CEO 3m for being responsive to our concerns. Uh, in addition to those masks, uh, Florida's emergency management department, we making a delivery over the next 36 hours of even more PPE. Uh, this delivery will include another 1.2 million procedure masks, 100,000 face shields, 500,000 gloves, 60,000 containers of hand sanitizer, 35,000 gowns, which, uh, those are very much, um, in need. So with this push, uh, the state will have distributed 8 million masks, five and a half million gloves, 564,000 shoe covers, 615,000 face shields, 300,000 gowns, more than a hundred thousand containers of hand sanitizer, 47,000 goggles and 22,000 cover all. So that is a massive, uh, amount of equipment. Uh, it's more than the division has ever done in Florida's history, very complicated. Uh, there's been a worldwide run on all this stuff. So I want to thank Jared for, for his good work. Um, and I want to thank all the truck drivers, all our national guards, men and women and employees at the Florida department of health and division of emergency management. They're working 24, seven to efficiently move

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these critical resources throughout our state. And it's very important for the work that's being done.

Gov. DeSantis:

03:24

We have great news yesterday and announcement about our national guard strike teams. They had been doing this, uh, periodically throughout the nursing homes. It was very effective. Uh, so we wanted to expand that. Uh, so we have 10 teams of four soldiers each. They're actively testing, uh, today they've already taken samples from 500 people. Um, and we're looking to be many more. And I've told Jared, uh, we want to expand that as widely as we can. It's very, very important that we focus resources on those people who are the most vulnerable, uh, to COVID-19. And so I want to thank the national guard for really leading the effort on this. We had done a lot early on on the screening and limiting the visitation and that that has been effective. I mean, there were definitely people who were sick who were kept out. Uh, the problem is with the staff, not everyone has symptoms. So you have one staff member who's not symptomatic and they can infect 10, 20 other staff members and obviously that could transfer over to the residents. And so doing this spot testing, uh, is a way to be able to identify that and then prevent a major outbreak in one of these facilities. Testing has been a big priority in the state of Florida. We've tested over 204,000 individuals. Um, in terms of raw numbers, that is number three in the country. Uh, by the end of today, we probably will have about 210,000 results in, uh, that's close to one and every 100 Floridians. Now you look at some of these other countries, I mean very advanced countries like Japan, look at how many they tested vis-a-vis their population. So this is a, a very good ratio. We're going to do even better. Southeast Florida, if you just look at those three counties that have had the most cases, 60% of our cases, we're probably in the range of one test for every 85, uh, residents in Miami, Broward and Palm beach counties. Um, and again, that's something that's very important. So we've been able to get a better baseline about what's happening. Obviously people want to be able to get tested and get results, which is very, very important. Um, some of these countries, Japan didn't even do, do close to this much. South Korea had done one in every 200 when this all started, people said, Oh, if you can test like South Korea then you're going to be able to get COVID-19 under control. So we are continuing to focus on it. Uh, we announced last week the, we're going to continue the three sites in Orlando, Jacksonville in Miami. The federal government was only planning on doing them through April 10th. I think they've been popular. I think we need to do more. It's important that those criteria has really expanded from the start of this. Anybody with Coronavirus symptoms can go to one of those

sites, any healthcare worker, any first responder, if you don't have symptoms, which you've had close contact with, somebody who's recently tested positive for coronavirus, you can go into those sites. And that I think is, is really, really important. And then it also brings up kind of when we get out of this phase and then get into the next phase, what is it going to look like in terms of testing? And I think there has to be an easy way for somebody, if you have a small business and you have 20 employees and someone's coming up with symptoms, they'd be able to go get a test and get an answer in a reasonable amount of time. Uh, so we're working on what that would look like. Um, I've got folks working on a committee, uh, to see, you know, what we can do, uh, to make this testing even more prevalent. Obviously things like the Abbott labs test, which is a five minute test. We, the hospitals, many of the hospitals have them, they're turning out about 1500 to 2000 of the individual cartridges and sending them to each hospital a week. We obviously, you know, we will buy as many as they have, but there's obviously a crush on that, so, so that may be part of it. But even if it's the traditional swab with the lab test, you can get the lab test turned around quicker than I think people can deal with that. It's just if it's five or six days, then it becomes much more difficult. And so we're thinking about how do we use leverage the infrastructure. We've already put in for kind of a phase two where we're having more activity in society but still have to identify who is infected, isolate them, and then trace the contacts. And so you don't have an outbreak in some of these communities. And so we're hoping that we're going to be able to do even more very soon if you have the baseline for testing, uh, the ability to be able to do things I think increases dramatically. And it's very, very important.

Gov. DeSantis:

08:04

The travel update, we've screened almost 20,000 people coming from the New York city area and from new Orleans, mostly from the New York city area. Obviously the top hot zone in the world. Um, and the requirement to self isolate, I think that that's been effective. Um, you don't have that many people coming from that part of the country, um, and, and not have massive outbreaks, um, unless you're doing something. And so I think that that was the right thing to do and I think that it has been effective and I'm glad that we were able to do it. If you look at the, uh, the case total and what's going on throughout the state, uh, we continue to see the bulk of the cases in the three Southeastern Florida counties, Miami Dade, Broward and Palm beach County. Uh, they represent, uh, about 60% of the total cases, more than 60% of the hospitalizations. And so we're obviously working with all those, uh, folks continue to work with those communities. I spoke with all three of the County mayors

today, not only about how things are going, what more we could do to help, but then, you know, they're saying they're thinking about the next phase of this as well. What does that look like in Southeast Florida? Is that going to be different than other parts of Florida? Um, you know, we'll see. So we're starting to, to work through and really think, uh, think about that. When this all started, when the president and the task force came out in the middle of March and said, you need to do 15 days, um, to slow the spread. And there was a whole bunch of different measures, uh, mitigation measures and we had obviously done things, even some of the things before that with the elderly and whatnot. Um, and then there were other things that were new in there, but it was obviously a big change for society in many respects. But the reason why they did it, the reason why mitigation measures were put in place was to flatten the curve so that we had enough healthcare resources to be able to treat the people who would be infected by COVID-19. And the fear was at the time, if you didn't do mitigation measures, then the people that would be going into hospitals would overwhelm the hospital system and what obviously you would have fewer resources to treat COVID patients. But then all the other patients, if that system buckled would not get the medical care. And so that would be, you know, a disaster if that were to happen. So that was the number one reason to, to do this. Uh, so here we are now probably a month later. Uh, the bed availability throughout the state of Florida, um, is about 42 and a half percent. To put that in perspective, you go back at the end of February, beginning of March in counties like Dade and Broward, um, you know, their bed availability was probably about 12% at that time. And so you have, we've dramatically increased capacity in terms of bed availability in the hospitals. And I think probably so much so that you're starting to see health care workers who work in other parts of the hospital or healthcare system, you know, get furloughed. Um, and so that's something that we're going to have to contend with cause you're not doing elective surgeries. There's a lot of things that aren't going on. Um, but we're at 42 and a half percent availability throughout the state. Uh, different county's a little different. You have 42% available in Miami Dade, about 41% in Broward, 46% in Palm beach County. So, uh, that has been stable. Uh, we haven't seen very many, uh, very much change, um, in that I think it's been pretty steady as she goes. That obviously is going to be one of the key indicators in terms of what's happening in the state of Florida. So we want to thank everybody who's working, who are working in those hospitals for all the great care they're given to folks. Uh, we are offering updates on our fight, uh, for, uh, COVID-19. And so if you are interested, uh, you can text FLCOVID-19 to eight, eight, eight,

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seven, seven, seven. Uh, there'll be periodic updates about what's going on if there's a new testing site open, if there's something else that's been done. Uh, and again, that's Florida COVID-19 to eight, eight, eight, seven, seven, seven. I want to thank everybody for all their hard work. I think progress has been made. I think a lot of communities are doing really good. Um, we really appreciate, uh, everyone, uh, for what they're doing. I'm gonna let Jared say a few things and then we'll take a few questions.

Dir. Moskowitz:

12:22

Thank you Governor. You know, before I talk about what the divisions working on, I just want to continue to thank, uh, the doctors and the nurses and all the folks, uh, in the hospital that have been on the front lines. I mean, not only are we see are they dealing with COVID-19, uh, but they're also dealing with, uh, you know, the situation in which there are loved ones in these hospitals that can't be visited by their family members because of how this virus works. And they're the ones who are also having to help them, uh, you know, through that process. And so I think we should just recognize that it's not just, it's not just the medical attention that they're performing, they're performing an emotional, uh, function as well because of how this virus works. And so I just want to thank again, all the doctors and all the nurses and all the hospital workers for everything they're doing, they, they really are the true heroes of what's been going on. Uh, as the governor talked about, uh, based on, uh, the, the push of PPE today, uh, that'll take us to, uh, 8 million, uh, masks, five and a half million gloves, 564,000 shoe covers, 615,000 face shields, 300,000 gowns, uh, over a hundred thousand containers of hand sanitizer, 47,000 goggles and 22,000 coveralls, which are basically like Tyvek suits. And so, uh, we are continuing to push out, uh, all sorts of different PPE. Uh, obviously the burn rates continue to change. We're continuing to analyze that, uh, as, as we decide where it needs to go. But this is a 24 hour operation. We're going to be, we run stuff all night, all day, and we're pushing directly to where it needs to go directly to the front lines, directly to the hospitals, the nursing homes, uh, and to our, into our first responders, police and fire and so, uh, you know, yesterday I talked about how this is a, this is a 50 state disaster. It's the first time in us history that we've had a 50 state disaster declaration. Uh, I wanna thank the governor for sending a letter to the president, uh, asking for a hundred percent, uh, reimbursement. Uh, as many of you know, obviously cause we deal with this with hurricanes, when we get a disaster declaration, it starts out at 75% reimbursement, 25% local cost share. And so this is not a state disaster. This is a national disaster. And so I wanna thank uh, the governor for, for requesting that of, of the president.

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Cause that's a big deal. That's a big deal to these hospitals. It's a big deal to these cities and counties who, let's not forget if dealt with four years of hurricanes here. Uh, and so that, that, that is definitely, uh, definitely needed and the division is still functioning, uh, in its, in its regular daily activity. So even while we're doing, uh, the COVID-19 response, we are still getting money out the door because we know as we get into hurricane season how important it's going to be, uh, to these cities and counties for reimbursement. You know, as they analyze what sort of lost revenue they may have, uh, from, uh, from COVID-19. Testing. Uh, we are continuing to expand testing. I think the governor will have additional announcements this week. Uh, we are working on expanding testing in a number of different areas, a number of different neighborhoods, even changing kind of how, uh, the mode of, of how you get tested, whether that's a walkup versus a potential, uh, drive through. So we look forward, uh, to the governor's, uh, efforts on that and, and leading and we appreciate everything he's doing. And so, uh, again, it's social distancing. Uh, the mitigation measures are, we're working, we are flattening that curve. Florida has a good story to tell on what's been working. And so, uh, we have to stay the course. Remember April 30th, uh, is the 30 days to stop the spread. And so, uh, even while we talk about, uh, the good news that is happening here in the state of Florida, you know, we still need people to continue, uh, the social distancing and, and you know, we're mindful, uh, that there are still many families out there that are suffering, uh, with this and have loved ones in hospitals. And so, um, you know, as we talk about that good news, we're not turning the page on anybody. And so it's important that we continue to focus on the folks that you know, are dealing with COVID-19. So governor, thank you.

Reporter: 16:16

Everyone's still getting questions about unemployment, the website's still crashing, the phones not being answered. Is this a crutch?

Gov. DeSantis: 16:29

I'm not sure, I mean, so we still have over a thousand people answering the phones. Um, I can, we pulled the thing about the wait times, I mean that that has improved dramatically. We were, we're getting huge numbers of people through the Pega website. Um, that obviously is going to be migrated through the connect system, which, you know, it's got to do the verification, social security, all these other things. I can also report that, um, uh, the first federal checks are going out today. Uh, so people are going to start seeing that \$600 federally, um, and we're gonna get those in the hopper and can get those out. So there's going to be a priority on doing that as well. So, um, you know, you're in a situation where people are now going through this,

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this Pega site. Um, I think that that's probably the best solution. Of course there was 60 servers brought in. Um, there's a whole bunch of things done. Um, so I think that there's a way to migrate that through process that, um, and I said, I talked to Lawson today and I said, you know, we wanna we want to turn this stuff around and usually takes three weeks. I said, we gotta we gotta be better than that cause his folks are going to be, um, you know, going to be looking for the support. So there is an end we do or we're having even more folks from all these other agencies. Uh, we've identified 2000 you've had a number of them have come in, you know, they're doing things when we've gotten paper applications because of the FedEx thing. So you have people that are processing those, um, for you take out an agency. This has been like a dramatic increase in. So I think it's something that's very important and that's something that we're putting off a lot of effort into.

Reporter: 17:55

Matt Gaetz put up tweet that said that he, that you actually, you are working on a program to auto enroll some of these people that have been laid off, you know, in mass, uh, Disney, the 43,000 universal studios, it might be a way to actually get them in faster than having to apply. I don't know if you can expand.

Gov. DeSantis: 18:11

Yeah, so basically, I mean we got the notice that with Disney that they were going to furlough like 70,000 and they had been paying them through March and early April. But I think that's coming to an end. Uh, sometime this week or beginning of next. And so we basically said, okay, you know, there's, this system's getting crushed so we know this is coming. So is there a way we can get ahold of it? Maybe get the data directly from the employer and then go ahead and put it through because you know, we can put it through at like three in the morning and stuff when there's not other people doing it. So I think it, I think it would make sense. I think it would probably be easier for everyone now. They wouldn't get any special place in line, like whoever's applied, you know, it's going to go through that way. Uh, but I think when, you know, you're going to have a massive amount of people from one employer and that's announced. If we can work with them to get that information and get it through the system, I think that will probably be better, uh, for everyone. So, so yeah, we're, we're open to doing that. We're working to try to do it.

Reporter: 19:03

What are you telling people that are out there that have been repeatedly still trying to access...

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- Gov. DeSantis: 19:07 We had, I mean if you look, we have now had, we've had hundreds of thousands of successful submissions. So there's a lot of this is being processed. Um, there's been an extraordinary amount of man hours that have been put into it. We deal with it every single day, uh, prodding for improvements, um, any way we can. Um, so I, I think you're going to the federal money, you're gonna start seeing that today. You're going to see more of that. Um, you know, I said I want to clear this, this out as quickly as possible. The federal is actually going to be a hard check, uh, that people are going to get. The state portion, which is obviously smaller, can be either direct deposit or a debit card. And so there's going to be kind of different means in terms of that. Uh, but those federal, the federal money will be a hard check.
- Reporter: 19:59 Some people say they're being denied..
- Gov. DeSantis: 20:00 Who's that?
- Reporter: 20:00 Gig workers.
- Gov. DeSantis: 20:00 So gig workers, I don't know if they qualify under Florida's existing law, but they do qualify for the \$600 federal. So that is absolutely...
- Reporter: 20:10 So how are they going to get that state money if they are denied state unemployment?
- Gov. DeSantis: 20:10 No, no. So I just talked to Lawson about it today. And, um, it's so when you're, when you're processing it, it, there, there may be certain groups where there's a, where there's a different calculation. So they understand that and they understand that the gig workers do, uh, do qualify for the \$600, uh, federal money. Why they did it through the state unemployment system. I will never understand that. It just seems like you're adding additional bureaucracy to this, but that's what they did. So that's what we're going to end up doing. Yeah. No, people are people who are applying through it and, and then they, um, you know, they, they get it processed. So that's what, uh, so there's, uh, you have the gig workers obviously the traditional unemployment, people that qualify the state will qualify. The federal is more liberal than what the state is. And so there may be people that get to 600 who don't get the the other, I think most people in Florida are going to get both. But there may be some that do not.

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- Reporter: 21:10 What do you think about the President saying he is going to reopen the states? Have you spoken with neighboring States for trying to get a regional approach to eventual reopening time? What do you know?
- Gov. DeSantis: 21:18 It's interesting. I um, I watched the briefings, um, and you go back a week or two and he was being badgered by the press there for why aren't you shutting down these States? South Dakota doesn't have stay at home and you know, whatever. And they were badgering about it and he said, you know, no, it's their decision now they're saying you don't have the authority. I don't know. It's one or the other. I mean I think, I think functionally, here's, here's the thing. So when they extended the guidelines as safe did not have to continue with mitigation, like the state could have done their own thing. But practically speaking, once that happened, you were just not going to be in a situation where you were going to quote open up. I mean that was just the reality. So yes, he could, he could get rid of the guidelines. Does that mean a state has to follow exactly. But what's going to happen is you are going to have people start to move in that direction. Um, and so just as the extension I think led to the continued mitigation, if he decides to lift that or do more, uh, liberal guidelines, then I think you're going to see the States inevitably follow because once one or two States does it, um, you know, the other States are going to kind of be at a disadvantage. So, but I will say this in terms of the state's authority, um, just cause there's an emergency that does not give a governor unlimited authority. And you see some of the things that's going on in, uh, throughout the country. You have, uh, people driving in, in a drive through church service. They're not leaving their car, they're not coming into contact with anybody. They're turning on the radio, they're listening to a sermon and they're getting fined by, by the government. Um, I don't think that that's, that, that's acceptable. I mean, I don't think that that you cannot deny someone a constitutional right if what they're doing has no impact whatsoever on this infectious disease. And the fact of the matter is if someone drives their car, sits in a parking lot, listens, listens to the good news and goes home that has zero impact. So some of this stuff I think is petty tyranny. I think it's been a huge mistake. And what we've tried to do here is respect people. Obviously there's a lot of inconveniences with, with this situation we find ourselves in but to do things like that. Um, I think, I think some governors have definitely overstep their bounds.
- Reporter: 23:39 Bridge loan programs. People are frustrated, that it's going away after it reached out, it's max amount. Any thought of expanding that?

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- Gov. DeSantis: 23:47 Well we're looking at the options. I know there's some options with SBA, but look, we have the people that are going to get who, who have gotten hit the hardest with this are folks who are more blue collar and some of the blue collar jobs, some of the service jobs, those are not necessarily people that are making a quarter of a million dollars a year. Many of those people that work paycheck to paycheck, um, and so, so, so they're going to need to be able to get on their feet. Hopefully that means that we'll have a light at the end of the tunnel where they have a job to go back to. But these small businesses who employ a lot of people in Florida, I mean for all the talk about the Disney and this type of, of company, most of these people are working for small and medium sized business. The small businesses have taken it on the chin. And so I think that we, we went for the \$50 million bridge loan very early. Uh, this, these, uh, the, the PPP loans, the federal loans, paycheck protection. Uh, I think that that's been very popular. Hopefully that will end up making a big difference. I think they're going to do round two on that, uh, which will be important. And then we obviously we'll see what we could do. The way I view it is some of these businesses, if they don't have the ability to just get through this period, financially may never come back. Um, and I think that that would be a loss for the state of Florida.
- Reporter: 25:00 There have been calls to continue keeping schools distance learning through the end of the year. You said I think last week...
- Gov. DeSantis: 25:10 We've talked about it. We haven't made a decision yet. I mean obviously it's going to be based on safety. It's going to be based on consultation with folks and in, uh, the superintendents, the parents. And so we're just in a situation where, you know, we've got to see where we're going. Um, it doesn't mean that they are going to go back. Um, but I think we just need to get down this road a little bit further and part of what we're going to be doing, and I'll be announcing probably this week, uh, we're creating a task force on what the phase two looks like. What, what does a reopening look like? And that's, they're going to deal with issues like education. It's not just going back to school, you know, at the end of may for a couple of weeks talking about what's the fall semester going to look like for K-12, what's it going to look like for our universities? What would need to be in place? I mean, we're assuming, um, you know, maybe there'll be an antiviral developed, um, you know, we don't know how this thing is gonna. Is there going to be this wave? And then a second wave comes back in the fall. So there's a lot of things that, that you need to be prepared for. So they're going to look at all this stuff with education. They're going to look at all with

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different sectors of the economy. Um, you know, what is, what does a restaurant, uh, look like kind of in this, in, in this era going forward. Uh, what are some of the other things that, that people kind of took for granted? I mean, you know, some of the things that have been done throughout the country, um, you know, closing the gyms. I mean that's kind of like a textbook thing CDC recognized and I get like you could get germs and stuff, but I also understand the number one group of people who have been susceptible to COVID-19. If you look in New York and some of these other obesity is like the number one factor in whether you really get hit hard by COVID-19. And so my, my fear has been kind of in the last month and continue going. You know, I wonder how the physical activity has been, we've got to figure out a way to get people to be able to, you know, enjoy the outdoors to be able to get out of the house, to be able to get to, so there's whole bunch of things. It's not just this business or that it's the education, it's the, it's the, the quality of life. It's, it's exercise and health, uh, mental health. Some of the things that are going to be, uh, growing out of this, one, we don't know for sure because this has really never been tried in modern America before. But, but there are obviously going to be second order effects and um, and those are going to be things that we're going to have to deal with here in the state of Florida.

- Reporter: [27:26](#) (Nursing home communities testing question)
- Gov. DeSantis: [27:27](#) Yeah, yeah. I mean I haven't, I haven't made a decision on it. Uh, I know that they, some folks asked me about that. I think we're, it's under review. I haven't made any decisions yet on that. It's under review. I haven't made any decisions on it and we'll look, I know New York did it and some other States have done it. Uh, but, but we haven't made any decision yet here.
- Reporter: [27:55](#) Governor are you willing to look at other types of business for exemptions to essential businesses like you've given WWE for example the ability to function.
- Gov. DeSantis: [28:04](#) So as people, so you know, the Disney asked to have some of the gardening people be able to go cause they have all the millions of dollars worth of stuff there and it would just go bad. And then we said, okay, is there going to be social distance yet people are to go out, work themselves. Obviously WWE, there's no crowd or anything. So it's a very, very small number of people. Uh, so, so we just kind of look at it on a case by case basis. We haven't had a huge, uh, amount of requests. I mean, so I think a lot of this will just be, you know, what do we look like in May, uh, with some of this rather than being able to do

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stuff. Now the one thing though I do support is, um, I think that we do need to, to support like content, like especially like sports and events and we're not going to have crowds there. I get that. But if we can do, like if NASCAR does a race and can televise it, um, without having large crowds, I think that's a good thing. Uh, I'd like to see Woods and Mickelson do the golf or whatever, cause that's social distance. You wouldn't have a gallery there, you wouldn't have crowds. But to put that on TV, I think people have been starved for content. I mean, we haven't had a lot of new content since the beginning of March. Uh, here we are now, uh, or the middle of March. Here we are the middle of April. And if people are, you know, being told to, to stay closer to the house, it sure does help to have some fresh things, uh, to be able to do. And I think people are chomping at the bit. I mean, if you think about it we've never had a period like this, uh, in modern American history where you've had such little new content, particularly in the, in the sporting realm. I mean people are watching, you know, we're watching like reruns from like, uh, you know, the early 2000s watching Tom Brady do the Superbowl then, which is neat cause going to be in Tampa. And I think they got a chance to do, to, to, to win a Superbowl this year. Um, but, but I think people, you know, to be able to have some light at the end of the tunnel, see the things may make it back on a better course. I think from just a, a psychological perspective, I think is, I think it's a good thing.

From: [Mr. Brian Michael Spies](#)
To: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com
Cc: mayor@ocfl.net
Subject: WWE Is Essential..... Really?
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:27:51 PM

I was appalled to hear the above "decision" by both of you. In a time of such WORLD crisis this is the most irresponsible thing anyone could do, let alone people who run our government. Even if there is no spectators, the people participating are in danger and they could spread it. How hard is this? All sports have shut down and you allow one with such high person to person contact is just ridiculous. Governor you are handling this virus issue so poorly and this proves it. This will set off a firestorm of "well if WWE can do it...so can we, and goes against ALL CDC GUIDELINES on social distancing. This reflects, to say the least, poor leadership on both of your parts.