

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 18, 2020**

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**Florida Department of Health Updates New COVID-19 Cases,  
Announces Twenty-Four Deaths Related to COVID-19  
~45,208 positive cases in Florida residents and 1,234 positive  
cases in non-Florida residents~**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — The Florida Department of Health, in order to provide more comprehensive data, releases a report on COVID-19 cases in Florida once per day. The Florida Department of Health COVID-19 dashboard is also providing updates once per day. The state also provides a report detailing surveillance data for every Florida county. Previously, this information was only available for select communities. The surveillance data report is available [here](#).

More than 24,100 test results were reported to the Department of Health on Sunday, May 17. Today, as of 11 a.m., there are 854 new positive COVID-19 cases (839 Florida residents and 15 non-Florida residents) and twenty-four deaths related to COVID-19.

While Florida's testing has increased over the past week, the percent of those testing positive for COVID-19 overall is 7 percent. On May 17, 3 percent of new cases\*\* tested positive.

The Florida Department of Health also releases a list of long-term care facilities in Florida associated with COVID-19 cases with active cases and number of deaths in each facility in order to provide real-time data. The list of long-term care facilities with active COVID-19 cases is available [here](#). The list of long-term care facilities with deaths is available [here](#). To date, 901 individuals that were staff or residents of a long-term care facility have died.

There are a total of 46,442 Florida cases\*\* with 1,997 deaths related to COVID-19.

Since 11 a.m. on May 17, twenty-four people have died who tested positive for COVID-19 in Brevard, Broward, Dade, Hillsborough, Lee, Pinellas, Polk and Walton counties.

Florida recently partnered with private laboratories around the state to expand COVID-19 laboratory testing capacity. This partnership will increase the number of tests conducted each day and ensure Floridians receive the critical health information they need in a timely manner.

Expansion to private laboratories changes the COVID-19 testing landscape in Florida. Private laboratories are running tests as they receive swab samples from practitioners. Testing and reporting times vary among commercial and DOH laboratories. Demographic information may

be updated during investigations. This daily report reflect the state's efforts to accurately and transparently share information.

More information on a case-by-case basis can also be found [here](#).

|                                                |        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Confirmed Cases in Florida Residents           | 45,208 |
| Confirmed by DOH                               | 4,543  |
| Tested by private labs                         | 40,665 |
| Characteristics of Florida Resident Cases      |        |
| FL resident diagnosed & isolated out of state* | 9      |
| Deaths                                         | 1,997  |
| Cases in Non-Florida Residents                 | 1,234  |
| Confirmed by DOH                               | 131    |
| Tested by private labs                         | 1,103  |

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total Cases Overview                 | 46,442 |
| Traveled                             | 2,006  |
| Contact with confirmed case          | 19,646 |
| Travel & contact with confirmed case | 1,875  |
| Unknown and Under Investigation      | 21,681 |

For more detail on Florida resident cases, please visit the live DOH Dashboard [here](#).

\* Florida residents that are diagnosed with COVID-19 and isolated out of state are not reflected on the Florida map.

\*\*This percentage is the number of people who test positive for the first time divided by all tests, excluding people who have previously tested positive.

\*\*\*Total cases overview includes positive cases in Florida residents and non-Florida residents tested in Florida.

### More Information on COVID-19

To find the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19, please visit the Department of Health's dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#). For information and advisories from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), please visit the [CDC COVID-19 website](#), this website is also available in Spanish and Creole. For more information about current travel advisories issued by the U.S. Department of State, please visit the [travel advisory website](#).

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling **1-866-779-6121**. The Call Center is available **24 hours per day**. Inquiries may also be emailed to [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

## About the Florida Department of Health

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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