

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 16, 2020

Contact: Joint Information Center on COVID-19 for the State of Florida (850) 815-4940, ESF14@em.myflorida.com

**Florida Department of Health Updates New COVID-19 Cases,
Announces One New Death Related to COVID-19
~142 positive cases in Florida Residents and 18 positive
cases in non-Florida residents~**

TALLAHASSEE — Today, as part of the state's ongoing efforts to provide transparency and clarity regarding COVID-19, the Florida Department of Health launched a new [COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#). To keep Florida residents and visitors safe, informed and aware about the status of the virus, this dashboard will be updated twice daily.

One person has died in Orange County who tested positive for COVID-19.

As of 5 p.m., there are 160 total** Florida cases:

- This number includes 5 additional positive COVID-19 cases (5 Florida residents) reported to the Florida Department of Health.
- There are currently 142 positive cases in Florida residents and 18 positive cases in non-Florida residents.

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 will run tests as they receive swab samples from practitioners. Testing and reporting times will vary among commercial and DOH laboratories. Demographic information may be updated during investigations. These twice daily reports reflect the state's efforts to accurately and transparently share information.

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

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.

**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 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), please visit the [CDC COVID-19 website](#). 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**.

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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