

[Click here to open this e-mail in its own browser window](#)



The Webster Wire

Listening to Floridians

Dear Friends:

Last week, using his pardon powers, President Trump pardoned Jon Ponder. Ponder was convicted of bank robbery and served 63 years in prison. Following his release, he started and leads Hope for Prisoners, Inc, a re-entry program assisting former inmates as they reunite with their families, reenter the workforce and rejoin their communities. Watch Jon's inspiring and uplifting story of a life redeemed!



COVID-19 Update

This morning the Florida Department of Health [reported](#) 1,885 new positive COVID-19 cases, with a positivity rate of 5.52%. The number of new positive cases [reported in](#) counties in my district as of 9:25 a.m. are:

- 13 new, positive cases in Citrus County, with a positivity rate 4.55%.
- 16 new, positive cases in Hernando County with a positivity rate of 6.43%
- 11 new, positive cases in Lake County with a positivity rate of 1.91%.
- 28 new, positive cases in Marion County with a positivity rate of 9.27%.
- 4 new, positive cases in Sumter County with a positivity rate of 4.94%.

To date, Florida has a total of 623,471 positive cases, with 11,187 deaths related to COVID-19. Governor DeSantis announced today that:

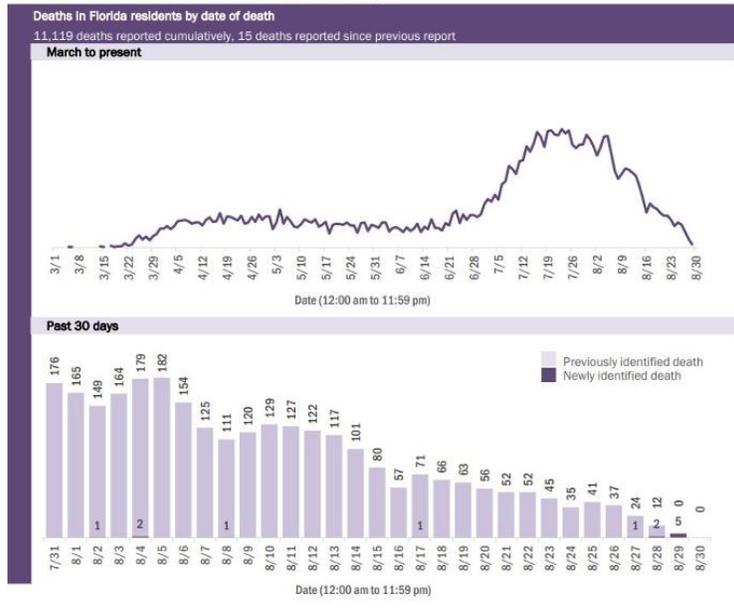
- 27% of hospital beds are empty and 24% of ICU beds are empty.
- Number of COVID-positive patients currently hospitalized is down nearly 60%, since the peak in July.
- Number of COVID-positive patients down 52%, since the peak in July.
- Florida's drive-thru testing sites have continued to register at between 20-25% positive anti-body tests

Furthermore, yesterday, Florida Department of Health (DOH), released data that shows a steady decline in the number of reported deaths in individuals previously diagnosed with COVID-19. This is encouraging news.

COVID-19: cases in Florida residents who have died

Data through Aug 29, 2020 verified as of Aug 30, 2020 at 09:25 AM

Data in this report are provisional and subject to change.



COVID-19 Reemployment Assistance

On Wednesday, Governor DeSantis announced that Florida will apply to participate in the Federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program. Once the application is approved, Florida will offer an additional \$300 per week to eligible Reemployment Assistance claimants. Saturday, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Pete Gaynor approved Florida's application.

Floridians who are currently receiving Reemployment Assistance benefits, are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 and are now receiving at least \$100 per week in Reemployment Assistance benefits will be eligible to receive the additional \$300 benefits from the LWA funds provided by FEMA. This includes individuals receiving:

- State Reemployment Assistance, including Unemployment Compensation for Federal
- Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX);
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA);
- Extended Benefits (EB); Short-Time Compensation (STC);
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA); and
- Payments under the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program.

Payments will be retroactive to August 1st, 2020. If you still need to file an initial reemployment assistance claim, please visit my website for information <https://webster.house.gov/unemployment-assistance>. For any additional questions or concerns about reemployment benefits, please don't hesitate to contact my

office.

New, Rapid COVID-19 Test

Last week, Abbott Laboratories [received an EUA from the FDA for a test](#), which costs \$5 and can produce results in 15 minutes without the use of any lab equipment. Last week the White House also announced it was purchasing 150 million of these tests to be distributed across the country. Working with Operation Warp Speed, Abbott Labs anticipates final production to be 50 million tests a month. According to the White House and Abbott, these tests were developed in America, which is great news too!

A Historic Plane Ride

Today, the first-ever direct commercial passenger flight took off from Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport and landed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) a few hours later! Officials and honored guests from the United States and an Israeli delegation participated in this historic event. This was possible in part thanks to American leadership to broker a peace deal between Israel and the UAE. On Saturday, the UAE lifted Israel boycotts that had been in place since 1972. The UAE is the third Arab country in the Middle East to recognize Israel. I applaud the Trump Administration and our friends in Israel and the UAE who worked together to bring more peace to the Middle East.



Wednesday, I visited with the Hernando Habitat for Humanity Board Members at their most recently constructed home. I am grateful for Habitat's dedicated service

and work to help individuals in our community realize the American dream of home-ownership. When I can, I enjoy joining their construction teams to help with a project and look forward to joining one of Hernando's building teams soon.



I recently met with members of the Rotary Club of Belleview at the new restaurant in Belleview, Food Wizards. We talked about issues in Marion County, updates on what is happening in Congress and the role of my office, and how we can help during this pandemic.



Tomorrow is National Poll Worker Recruitment Day. Supervisors of Elections depend on local registered voters to help polling operations run smoothly and securely. Being a poll worker is a way to serve your community, while participating in one of our responsibilities as Americans. Most workers earn a small stipend for their time. To be a poll worker, you must be a registered voter in that county. Click the links below for county-specific information and application forms.

- [Citrus County](#)
- [Hernando County](#)
- [Lake County](#)
- [Marion County](#)
- [Sumter County](#)

Your servant,



DeA White

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Constituent Corner

A constituent contacted my office seeking assistance receiving his Social Security Disability back pay after our office previously assisted him with his VA benefits. The Social Security Administration erroneously listed a worker's comp claim on his record, which caused his benefits to be frozen. My staff followed up with Social Security several times and provided updates to the constituent until we learned a check for over \$27,000 was issued to the constituent. We received the following message from the constituent, *"Thank you so much for your help! It's greatly appreciated! Please thank Mrs. Debbie as well. Your office has been great!"*

Constituent services is a critical element of our congressional office. The federal government is a massive operation, and my office is available if you ever need assistance in navigating the bureaucracy or cutting through red tape. We are here to serve you.

District Update

Pam Jones, my Community Relations Representative for Lake County, met with Marva Kelly, founder of Dorcas' Way. Dorcas' Way is a charity and community outreach center in Groveland. Marva Kelly organized a cleanup day for a homeless community. Many volunteers came to help, including Find Feed Restore, LiveWell Foundation, Real Life, Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Food Providers of South Lake, Universal Studios Club 52, and others.



Legislative Update

Earlier this month, President Trump signed S. 2163, the “Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act,” into law. The bill establishes the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys to study and make recommendations to address the conditions affecting Black men and boys. While serving in the Florida Legislature, I supported a similar state-based commission, along with then-State Representative Rubio and Senator Frederica Wilson. I co-sponsored the House companion to S. 2163, H.R. 1636.

Survey

Should the national guard be deployed in response to civil unrest in cities?

- [Yes](#)
- [No](#)
- [Unsure](#)

[submit your response](#)

Results of [last week's survey](#) which asked... “Did you, or do you plan to watch the Presidential National Conventions?” Yes - 62%, No - 31%, Unsure - 7%

[unsubscribe](#)

Washington
1210 Longworth
Washington, DC
20515
202-225-1002

Leesburg
318 South 2nd St
#A
Leesburg, FL
34748
352-241-9220

Inverness
212 W. Main
Street Suite 208A
Inverness, FL
34450
352-241-9204

The Villages
8015 E. County
Road 466 Suite
B
The Villages, FL
32162
(352) 383-3552

Brooksville
15 N. Main Street
Suite B
Brooksville, FL
34601
(352) 241-9230