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The Webster Wire

Listening to Floridians

Dear Friends:

The past 5 months have been hard for those with loved ones in nursing homes, assisted-living and long-term care facilities. The actions taken by Governor DeSantis and state officials to protect our population that was most vulnerable to COVID-19, resulted in millions not being to see or touch their beloved father, mother, grandfather, grandmother. The emotional toll this has taken on our seniors and families is real. I applaud Governor DeSantis for decisive action taken this year to protect our seniors, for recognizing it is an unsustainable long-term solution and for [appointing a task force of experts](#) to develop a plan for re-opening these facilities to families.

On Wednesday, under Governor DeSantis' direction and in accordance with Task Force recommendations, the FL Department of Emergency Management issued a new Emergency Order that allows visitors as long as

they meet certain requirements and safety protocols. These requirements include all visitors must wear PPE pursuant to the most recent CDC guidelines. Those not making physical contact must wear a mask when entering a facility. Visitors must be over 18 and the order:

- Directs all facilities to ensure visitors are not quarantining, positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic;
- Requires facilities to screen visitors, establish limits on the number of visitors allowed, schedule visitation ahead of time, clean and disinfect visiting areas between visitors and take other protective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

[Click here](#) to read the full order. In preparation for reopening, Florida Division of Emergency Management has provided all long-term care facilities with additional personal protective equipment (PPE) totaling five million masks, four million gloves and two million gowns.

Great American Comeback

Friday's Jobs Report contained more great news for hardworking Americans. The numbers [exceeded expectations](#) with unemployment rate dropping to its lowest since coronavirus shutdowns in March! According to a CNBC analysis:

- Unemployment dropped to 8.4% from 10.2% in July and well below expectations of 9.8%.
- Nonfarm payrolls increased by 1.37 million in August vs. Dow Jones estimates of 1.32 million.
- Those on temporary layoff declined, falling by one-third to 6.2 million and well off the high of 18.1 million in April.

The Great American Comeback continues and while we have a long way to go, the trends are in the right direction. Thanks to the Trump administration getting government off the backs of hardworking Americans, I'm confident we can once again have the greatest economy in history.



AUGUST MARKS THE

4th consecutive month of strong jobs gains

FOLLOWING COVID LOCKDOWNS

Paycheck Protection Program Supported Millions of Jobs

When government mandates businesses to close and prevents hardworking Americans from going to work, it has a responsibility to provide assistance – the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) did exactly that. A [new report](#) was released last week, showing that the PPP supported more than 51 million jobs. Nearly 5 million PPP loans were issued by the Small Business Administration. According to the report, more than \$349 of the \$659 billion was issued in 14 days – a remarkable turnaround time for the federal government. These loans went to more than 1.6 million small businesses, nonprofits, veterans' organizations, tribal businesses, sole proprietors, and independent contractors. Thanks in part to this program, we are seeing record numbers of jobs being added back as our economy is reopening.

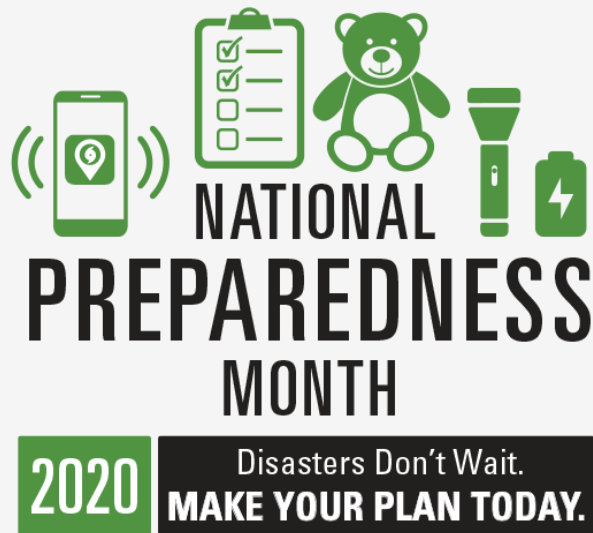
THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM
HAS SUPPORTED OVER

50 MILLION JOBS



Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today

September is National Preparedness Month. As Floridians, we know hurricane season can be unpredictable, and having a disaster preparedness plan is another step you can take to protect your home and family. During each week in September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will be providing guidance on the steps you can take to prepare for disasters. Visit my website for their tips: webster.house.gov/disaster-preparedness



Latest COVID-19 Data

Today is the 26th straight day that Florida's positivity rate is below 10%. This morning the Florida Department of Health [reported](#) 1,838 new positive COVID-19 cases, with a positivity rate of 4.55%. The number of new positive cases [reported in](#) counties in my district as of 9:25 a.m. are:

- 4 new, positive cases in Citrus County, with a positivity rate 2.2%.
- 4 new, positive cases in Hernando County with a positivity rate of 1.92%
- 20 new, positive cases in Lake County with a positivity rate of 3.78%.
- 22 new, positive cases in Marion County with a positivity rate of 2.98%.
- 1 new, positive case in Sumter County with a positivity rate of .88%.

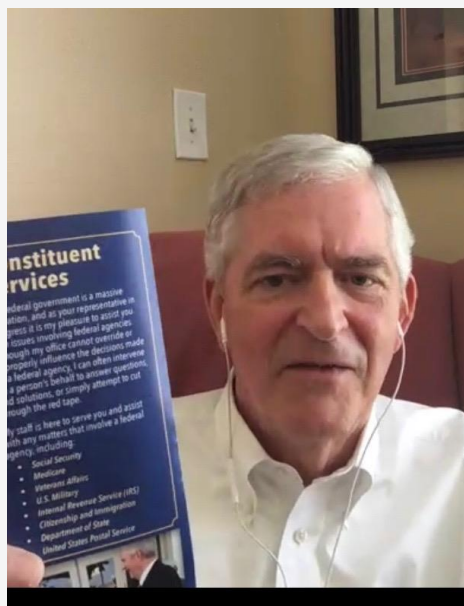
To date, Florida has a total of 648,269 positive cases, with 11,871 deaths related to COVID-19.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), reported today that, *"there has*

been a steady decline in the number of reported Florida resident deaths who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19. The fourth week of July compared to the fourth week of August, shows a 75 percent decrease in the average number of reported COVID-19 related deaths.” This is very encouraging news for Florida families and business owners!

Last week, Governor DeSantis announced that he extended his executive order that prevents foreclosure and evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Order [20-94](#), first issued on April 2nd was signed to provide relief to those experiencing hardship due to the coronavirus. The executive order is now in effect through October 1st.

On Wednesday, I joined Marion County Children’s Alliance’s monthly meeting, currently meeting by video conference. Joined by 68 individuals and organizations across Marion county, we discussed the work being done by the Children’s Alliance to help children and families in Marion County. I shared the services my office can provide to constituents with issues involving a federal agency. Although I cannot override or improperly influence the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a constituent’s behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or simply attempt to cut through the red tape.



Tourism is one of Florida’s greatest economic engines. Last week, I met with Gilles Cassani, General Manager of the new Brownwood Hotel and Spa in The Villages. The new hotel is designed to showcase Florida’s heritage, and features 151 guest rooms, and amenities for guests and

visitors to enjoy.



Also, on Wednesday, I met with the Rotary Club of Wildwood. We met at the Bluefin Grill and Bar in The Villages. It was great to meet with the Rotary Club members to hear about issues in the community and provide an update on latest Congressional actions and discussions.



After working out of a trailer for the past year and a half, the City of Wildwood Police Department opened its new headquarters on Thursday.

After several years of planning and construction, the new 14,104 square-foot building features enough space for a growing department and city. The citizens and officers that serve in Wildwood are proud of their department, and I was honored to speak at their ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new headquarters. I am grateful for the many law enforcement officials who serve and protect our neighborhoods with humility and brotherly love.



Last week, First Lady Melania Trump announced that the White House would resume tours beginning on Saturday, September 12th. Tours can be requested up to 3 months and no less than 21 days in advance. Tours will be hosted on Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Tours are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information on tours

or to submit your request, please visit my website and submit the request form: webster.house.gov/dc-tour-requests.

In addition to the White House reopening tours, the 2020 Christmas season's initial planning is underway. First Lady Melania Trump will continue the tradition of opening the White House for the public to volunteer during the Christmas season. Volunteer opportunities include decorating the White House, serving as a greeter at the Holiday open houses, and the opportunity for musicians to perform throughout December. For information on volunteering in the White House during the holiday season, visit the [link here](#). For individual musicians or groups looking to perform at the White House, please visit the link [here](#).

Your servant,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Webster".

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Constituent Corner

A constituent contacted my office, seeking help in obtaining a copy of his benefit award letter. The constituent was struggling to get the agency to complete this request as they were operating under COVID-19 constraints. Following an inquiry from our office, the Social Security Administration (SSA) reached out to the constituent, and he received the award letter shortly after.

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

Transportation – efficiently and effectively moving people and goods is a critical component of Florida's Economy. It was my pleasure to recently let the City of Leesburg know they were receiving \$5.2 million from Airport

Improvement Program (AIP) grant funding. These funds are to help with runway rehabilitation and lighting at the Leesburg Regional Airport. A portion of these funds are provided from the CARES act to cover 100% of the local match.

Survey

Over the weekend, President Trump explored the idea of defunding public schools that teach “The 1619 Project”. Should public schools teach history based on The New York Times publication?

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

[submit your response](#)

Results of [last week's survey](#) which asked... “Should the national guard be deployed in response to civil unrest in cities?” Yes - 83% , No - 11% , Unsure - 6%

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