



LeadingAge Florida COVID-19 Situation Report 7/20/20

Florida has the third highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States, after New York and California. The CDC projects 19,285 deaths in Florida by November 1, 2020.

Governor DeSantis has said that COVID infection rates are surging primarily among young people, but **long-term care organizations are experiencing growing numbers of cases**, too.

CURRENT STATS

Florida's Older Population

- 1 in 5 Floridians is 65 or older
- Nearly 200,000 Florida seniors benefit from aging services, including independent living, assisted living, nursing care, and affordable housing

Current State of COVID-19 Cases

- 345,600+ COVID-19 cases
- 12,000 new cases/day on average (up from 2,000 new cases/day in June)
- Weekly average test positivity rate of 18%, second highest of any state
- More than 4,500 nursing home and assisted living residents infected
- Over 3% of nursing home and assisted living residents infected
- Nearly 3.5% of nursing home and assisted living staff infected
- Less than 20% ICU bed availability; close to 50 hospitals report no availability

Current State of COVID-19 Deaths

- Older adults account for 47% of all COVID-19 deaths statewide. As high as 60-75% in some counties, including Pinellas, Manatee, Hillsborough, Sarasota, and Polk
- 4,982 COVID-19 deaths
- 2,343 deaths of long-term care residents and staff
- Projected 19,285 deaths in Florida by November 1, likely including 10,000 older Floridians

FLORIDA AGING SERVICES NEEDS & EXPERIENCES

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Nearly 1/5 of Florida nursing homes reported that they did not have a one-week supply of protective gowns or the N95 masks recommended for care of patients with COVID-19. Some nursing homes say they do not have any gowns or N95 masks at all (May 31 CMS Survey).
- PPE supply has improved, but providers are still facing significantly higher-than-normal prices, creating significant financial pressures.
- Many promised FEMA shipments of PPE have not arrived or have been substandard quality.
- Long-term care leaders expect the spike in cases will create new pressure on PPE supplies.

Testing

- All nursing home and assisted living facility workers required to be tested for COVID-19 every two weeks, per mid-June order by state officials.
- Meanwhile, the federal government is considering scaling back testing assistance.

Staffing

- Nearly 200,000 long-term care staff face exposure to COVID-19.
- Growth in positive cases among staff threaten staffing levels and service delivery, drive additional costs for overtime and staff replacement.
- Dedicating staff to COVID-19 isolation units to care for infected residents further depletes available and already overburdened staff.
- Florida Department of Health recommends “designating staff to steward (those) supplies and encourage appropriate use by residents, visitors, and staff.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Revenues for providers are down, in general, as a result of fewer admissions across the continuum of care.
- As revenues decline and costs continue to soar, long-term care providers will be in a perilous financial position.
- Providers report COVID-related increases are driving **operating losses from \$100,000/month to \$3 million/month.**
- Provider costs for staff testing twice per month range from **an estimated \$25,000/month to \$300,000/month if state resources were no longer available.**

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