



The Coordinating  
Council of Broward

Updates from members of the Coordinating Council of Broward  
Updated March 12, 2020

Updates from:

*Broward County*  
*Broward Health*  
*Broward County Public Schools*  
*Broward Sheriff's Office*  
*211 Broward*  
*CareerSource Broward*  
*CDC*

*Children's Services Council*  
*Dept of Children & Families*  
*Florida Dept of Health*  
*Memorial Healthcare System*  
*State of Florida*  
*United Way*

For the latest updates, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov), email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov) or call the FDOH Call Center at 866-779-6121. To learn what Broward County is doing, visit [Broward.org/Coronavirus](https://www.broward.org/Coronavirus).

CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>. To learn about the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Short Time Compensation program for employers, please [click here](#).

Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the activation of the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. The Business Damage Assessment Survey can be taken online at <https://floridadisaster.biz/>. Results from this survey will be shared with state agencies and local partners. Surveys submitted by small businesses can be used to access the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan, made available for COVID-19 through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. For inquiries or assistance with the survey, businesses can contact Emergency Support Function 18 at [ESF18@em.myflorida.com](mailto:ESF18@em.myflorida.com).

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) and CDC are working to help families as they deal with the added stressors associated with COVID-19. We know that the lack of resources, disruptions to income, and access to health care and child care create added stressors for the vulnerable population we serve. Children away from the structure of school and day care who are around caregivers under greater stress are more likely to experience abuse, and behavior problems may increase.

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/parent-caregiver-guide-to-helping-families-cope-with-the-coronavirus-disease-2019>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>

***Broward Health*** is committed to protecting our patients, visitors and caregivers from the possible spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). In an abundance of caution, we are limiting the number of visitors entering our hospital and altering our visitor protocols beginning the evening of March 12, 2020, until further notice. Visitors will be welcomed from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Each patient is allowed one

visitor per day, and it must be the same person during the established morning and evening hours. Pediatric and maternity patients may have up to two visitors per day.

Visitors who are experiencing cold or flu symptoms are asked to refrain from visiting patients. In addition, we are asking visitors who have traveled to China, Japan, South Korea, Italy or Iran in the last 14 days or have been in close contact with someone who has traveled to these countries to defer their visits. As always, all guests will be greeted and registered at the security desk prior to visiting any patients. Guests should expect a question-based screening to ensure they meet current visitor criteria.

Prior to visiting hospitals, ambulatory/urgent care centers or doctor's offices, individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, which include shortness of breath, cough and fever, should call their primary care physician or the Florida Department of Health in Broward County at 954-467-4700. A patient's doctor or the Department of Health can advise whether that individual should be tested and then, if necessary, coordinate with first responders and hospitals to safely isolate the patient. This process is in place to safeguard the community. As one of the largest public health systems in the U.S., our mission is to provide access to high quality care to all those we serve. We follow evidence-based guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Health. We also have comprehensive infection control policies in place. Our team is well-equipped to deliver comprehensive care in adherence to CDC and Department of Health guidelines. We are prepared to treat individuals who may need respiratory support or who have an underlying medical condition. However, most healthy individuals who contract COVID-19 may only experience mild to moderate flu-like symptoms and will not require hospitalization. They will likely be able to recover from the comfort of their homes. Visitors seeking more information can visit [browardhealth.org/pages/coronavirus](http://browardhealth.org/pages/coronavirus).

***Memorial Healthcare System*** is diligently monitoring the development of COVID-19 (2019 novel Coronavirus) and taking all appropriate and necessary precautions for the safety and well-being of our community. We are working closely with local and state officials. We remain vigilant and continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Florida Department of Health guidelines.

**Those feeling under the weather and wondering if their flu-like symptoms could be related to coronavirus can now be examined by a doctor from the privacy of their homes at no cost. MemorialDocNow, the online application from Memorial Healthcare System, doesn't require insurance and the free telehealth offer is available through March 31.**

**MemorialDocNow (<http://www.memorialdocnow.com>) physicians can diagnose, write prescriptions as needed, and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To avoid the service's usual \$59 charge, users should enter "MemorialCares" when prompted for a coupon code.**

**To access MemorialDocNow from a computer, visit <http://www.memorialdocnow.com>.**

**From a mobile phone, download the app in the Apple or Google Play store.**

To keep the rest of our patients, families and staff safe from a possible exposure to COVID-19, Memorial is limiting visitors and visitation hours.

One visitor per patient will be allowed during the visiting periods from 10 am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm.

- Emergency Department: One visitor is allowed in the emergency department.
  - Maternity patients may have one significant other/caregiver with them 24/7.
  - A maximum of two primary caregivers can accompany a patient who has an appointment at any of our clinics.
- In an abundance of caution, all public classes have been cancelled. If you are unsure about the status of a class or event, please contact the organizer or check the events page on our website ([www.mhs.net](http://www.mhs.net))

If anyone is concerned about being exposed to COVID-19, please contact the FL Dept. of Health in Broward County at 954-412-7300 before travelling to any health care facility.

Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.mhs.net/patients-visitors/coronavirus-disease#FAQ>

**Broward County Public Schools** continues to monitor the coronavirus and follow guidance from the Florida Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. You may view Superintendent Runcie's March 12, 2020, Press Conference, download additional information, and obtain valuable resources on the district's website at [browardschools.com/coronavirus](http://browardschools.com/coronavirus).

All **Broward Sheriff Office** sponsored public events are postponed until further notice. Members of the public are encouraged to visit [sheriff.org](http://sheriff.org) for the latest information on BSO activities during this public health emergency. You are also encouraged to follow BSO via Twitter @browardsheriff, Facebook @browardsheriffsoffice or Instagram @browardsheriffsoffice. Members of the public can also download the SaferWatch app for public safety updates by visiting [saferwatchapp.com/broward](http://saferwatchapp.com/broward).

**United Way-** Due to concerns for public safety in regard to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), United Way of Broward County has **postponed** our Magnolia Luncheon, Behavioral Health Conference and Rising Above Stigma event. All other public events for the foreseeable future have been cancelled. At the same time, we are working to support our funded partners and will be paying them. We are deploying volunteers to DOH tomorrow and Saturday and as long as needed. And we are planning and preparing on how to assist ALICE families if they lose wages and income.

**Career Source-** We have also examined options to continue providing services to customers remotely given the growing concerns about the COVID-19 coronavirus. The following is a list of strategies we are developing:

- a) Allowing customers to complete on-line work registrations and orientations.
- b) Allowing customers to complete timesheets and other documents and text, email, photo-imaging or fax them to us.
- c) Conducting appointments via telephone.
- d) Providing additional virtual access to our e-learning and assessment tools.
- e) Assessing our ability to deliver workshops on-line.
- f) Working with employers who have scheduled on-site recruitments to determine if we can conduct the events as "virtual" recruitments.
- g) Assessing staff's capacity to work remotely in the event our offices close so that we can continue providing services to job seekers, customers and employers, (e.g. face time, texting and photo-imaging.)
- h) We have also requested the state consider allowing flexibility for mandatory customers.
- i) Scheduled conference calls with our training and youth providers to learn if they are putting alternative plans to classroom programs such as on-line so we can jointly plan on how it will impact our customers.

**211** will continue to provide uninterrupted crisis and information & referral services for the duration of this event. Our team will work remotely, and we hope to remain at full staff capacity. That could change if capacity is reduced due to illness or school/child care center closures. Contact info: Sheila Smith, [ssmith@211-broward.org](mailto:ssmith@211-broward.org) Dial 2-1-1 for help

**Children's Services Council** is following CDC guidelines with respect to social distancing and therefore canceling all staff travel, attendance at community gatherings and all CSC-sponsored trainings with the exception of the Project-Based Learning training currently in process since the out-of-state trainer is already here. If you are scheduled for a programmatic or fiscal monitoring, your Program Manager or Contract Compliance Manager will be in touch to discuss what might be accomplished remotely or be put off until a later date.

With respect to billing, we expect to invoke CSC's Disaster Billing Policy which allows us to work with agencies to ensure they are not hurt financially for situations outside of their control. Thus, do not let a need to draw down your units drive your decision-making with respect to keeping your staff safe. That said, we also know that the vulnerable populations we serve will still have needs during this time. Recognizing families may not want people in their homes and staff may not want to go into people's homes, we would like to encourage the use of technology such as Skype, Facetime, Go To Meeting etc to allow therapists to have a visual as well as audio connection to their clients. We also recognize that there may be a greater need for flex funds to help families with accessing health and safety supplies and food.

**Department of Children and Families**- We are currently under a travel band for the next 30 days and will re-evaluate after the 30 days. DCF is asking that we limit community interaction and are being asked to conduct meeting through Skype or other options in order to keep the face to face interaction limited. We are adhering to all CDC and Department of Health guidelines. More information will be coming out over the next few days in concern to the Child Welfare and Economic Self Sufficiency programs. We continue to have conference call twice a week with headquarters in Tallahassee and will give updates as they are received.

Contact: Dawn Liberta Community Development Administrator, Circuit 17, Department of Children and Families Office: (964) 331-3499 Cell: (954) 604-3405 [dawn.liberta@myflfamilies.com](mailto:dawn.liberta@myflfamilies.com)