

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

03/01/2021 Gulf COVID19 Update

Gulf Snapshot: 02/12/21 - 02/25/21

Positivity during this timeframe: 10%*

Positive tests this timeframe: 69

Total tests this timeframe: 689

*Positivity = the number of people who test positive in a week divided by all the people tested that week.

Totals Since the Beginning:

Residents 65 or older who have received COVID19 vaccine: 59%

Overall hospitalizations: 95

State Positivity: 5%
(as of 02/25/21)

Median Age in Gulf: 50

Here are the Gulf County testing numbers as of 2:00pm today: (see above)

For the full county COVID-19 profile report please visit:
http://ww11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19_report_archive/cases-monitoring-and-pui-information/county-report/county_reports_latest.pdf

For Gulf County COVID-19 updates straight to your phone: **text GULFCOVID to 888777.**
 Florida Department of Health in Gulf County: (850) 227-1276
 Florida Department of Health in Franklin County: 850-653-2111
 There is also a hotline available at 1 (866) 779-6121 or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Follow the [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) website for the latest guidance on COVID-19 and check out Floridahealth.gov to keep up with state-specific updates.

WHAT YOU’LL FIND IN TODAY’S UPDATE:

- Gulf County COVID-19 Profile Report. (See link on page 1)
- Updated County Health Department Message (page 1-3)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Important COVID19 Vaccine Update – What you need to know if you live in Gulf or Franklin

Gulf and Franklin Counties are making great strides to vaccinate individuals in alignment with the Governor’s order, which focuses on making sure vaccines are prioritized for at-risk populations.

Let's do a quick breakdown of what this means in our communities.

The latest Executive Order (EO 21-47) has been released and expands subgroups that can get the COVID-19 vaccination:

- Long-term care facility residents and staff;
- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact;
- K-12 school employees 50 years of age and older;
- Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of age and older; and
- Firefighters 50 years of age and older.

Now here is some important information about these groups:

Long-term care facility residents and staff:

Residents and staff from ALL nursing home or assisted living facilities in both counties have received the vaccine. And they have agreements in place to keep this going for new residents/staff.

Persons 65 years of age and older:

Gulf: If you had your 1st dose at the Centennial Building in Port St. Joe on February 4th, we will see you at the Centennial building again on March 4th for your 2nd dose. Please arrive at the same time as your first dose and bring your vaccine card if you have it.

Franklin: If you had your 1st dose at the Living Waters Assembly of God in Apalachicola on February 5th, we will see you at the Living Waters again on March 5th for your 2nd dose. Please arrive at the same time as your first dose and bring your vaccine card if you have it.

If you are 65 or older and still want a COVID-19 vaccine, give the health department a call! Gulf: 850-227-1276, Franklin: 850-653-2111. To date, 59% of Gulf and 64% of Franklin County residents 65 or older have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Healthcare workers:

If you still need a COVID-19 vaccine, the health department has you covered. Call to set up your appointment: 850-227-1276, Franklin: 850-653-2111.

K-12 school employees 50 years of age and older; Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of age and older; and Firefighters 50 years of age and older:

The health department is working your employer to set up special clinics. Please reach out to your employer if you have any questions.

Individuals under 65 WITH underlying medical conditions:

Current projects: Ascension-Sacred Heart Hospital Gulf and Weems Memorial hospital have developed plans to help administer vaccine to individuals under 65 with underlying medical conditions in alignment with the CDC. Here is the latest information on hospital projects in our counties. As more COVID-19 vaccine registered providers implement projects, we will keep the community informed.

- **Ascension Sacred Heart (Gulf)** plans to hold a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics for individuals ages 18-64 who have chronic medical conditions that make them extremely vulnerable to severe complications from the coronavirus. Clinics will be by appointment only. Please contact your primary care provider to see if you meet the CDC criteria for being at increased risk for severe complications from COVID-19.

A physician's certification of patients' "at increased risk" condition will be required before an appointment can be made. Once the provider certifies the patient is eligible for the vaccine and completes an online form, the

patient will be called by Ascension Sacred Heart to register for the clinic. This can happen through a phone call or text message.

Ascension Sacred Heart intends to hold additional clinics for higher-risk patients as more vaccine becomes available. Those regarded as high risk or extremely vulnerable to the virus include patients with cancer, COPD, weakened immune systems, chronic kidney diseases, certain heart conditions, obesity, Down syndrome, diabetes, sickle cell disease, and other conditions.

For more information, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

- **Weems Memorial Hospital (Franklin)** will host a COVID-19 vaccination event on **Tuesday, March 9 at the Eastpoint Church of God in Eastpoint from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm**. The vaccinations will be available for persons ages 18-64 who have underlying chronic medical conditions that make them vulnerable to complications from the virus. Appointments may be made by calling 850-323-6006, 850-323-6005 or 850-653-1525 extension 103 for an appointment. A medical order from a healthcare provider is required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. More clinics will be scheduled as vaccine becomes available.

According to the CDC, underlying medical conditions are those conditions that put an individual at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Adults of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, down syndrome, heart conditions, obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, and certain types of diabetes. A complete of conditions considered at risk can be found at the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

LOCAL UPDATES:

PLEDGE TO PROTECT



Pledge to Protect is a voluntary program in which Gulf County tourism businesses commit to clean and healthy standards for their guests and employees to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

By taking the Pledge to Protect, businesses are committing to:

- Proper Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Routine Cleaning and Disinfecting of Surfaces and Equipment
- Practicing Social Distancing and Minimized Contact
- Enforcing Any Sick Employees to Stay Home

Special thanks to the Gulf County Tourism Development Council for the creation of the logo, webpage and incentive promotion design and support. This project has been approved by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners.

GOVERNOR'S UPDATES:

To see all of Gov. DeSantis Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, visit: <https://www.flgov.com/covid-19/>.

STAYING INFORMED:

To get the latest information, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov) and follow on Social Media:

Florida Department of Health: [Twitter @HealthyFla](#) -or- [Facebook Florida Department of Health \(DOH\)](#)

Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners: [Facebook Gulf/Franklin County Community Health Improvement Partners](#)