



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor
State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As Chairman of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, I am in constant contact with our business and community leaders, and our healthcare and public safety officials in evaluating our county's progress in the fight against the COVID-19 virus. The impacts of this pandemic have been devastating to our way of life, and I am asked daily by our business community at large for an expected timeframe for re-opening all businesses and when we can anticipate resuming more normal activities. I know it would be of tremendous help to our business community, based on the current data trends, to project a date when a transition to Phase Two could be expected so that our businesses can plan accordingly.

Through Lake County's COVID-19 Task Force, data provided to us by the Florida Department of Health is continually analyzed and evaluated. The decisions we make are based on scientific information and grounded in facts. Lake County's goals have remained unchanged – to lower the COVID-19 infection rates, swiftly address outbreaks, and collect the data necessary to demonstrate that the rates are declining to build our public's confidence that we can resume more normal activities in the safest way possible.

Utilizing President Trump's Task Force Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, Lake County has met the Gating Criteria not only for Phase One, but we have also improved our position to move into Phase Two.

The Board of County Commissioners on May 5 agreed to request that you allow Lake County to move to the next phase of re-opening, in addition to allowing the re-opening of personal care services as outlined in my May 1, 2020, letter to you.

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Lake County has experienced a downward trajectory of the following criteria.

Symptoms

- Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI):
 - The weekly count for emergency department visits has significantly declined. For the week of March 22, the count was more than 120. For the week of April 26, the weekly count was less than 30 visits.
- COVID-Like Syndromic Cases
 - Lake County experienced a decline in cases from April 1 through May 1, 2020.

Cases

- Downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period:
 - Since April 15 (13 cases that day), the number of documented cases steadily declined through May 5 (two cases that day).
- Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period (flat or increasing volume of tests):
 - Lake County has significantly increased testing in the last 30 days. Below is a table that details the increase in testing and the decrease in percent positive of total tests.

Date	Total # of tests	# of positive tests	# of negative tests	# of inconclusive	Percent positive
May 4, 2020	7,456	235	7,221	0	3
April 27, 2020	5,105	223	4,881	1	4
April 20, 2020	3,916	211	3,704	1	5
April 13, 2020	2,928	162	2,763	3	6
April 6, 2020	2,025	107	1,915	3	5
March 31, 2020	1,176	66	1,107	3	6

Hospitals

- Treat all patients without crisis care:
 - Lake County has three hospitals – Advent Health Waterman in Tavares, UF Health in Leesburg, and Orlando Health South Lake Hospital in Clermont.
 - All patients, including COVID patients, have been treated without crisis care and through normal, day-to-day operations. In all hospitals, census has remained below for what is normal for this time of year.
 - ICU and non-ICU bed COVID inpatients: The peak of documented COVID cases, from April 1 through May 5, was 25 on April 7. As of May 5, two COVID patients remained among the three hospitals.

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- Ventilator patients: The peak of COVID cases that required ventilators, from April 1 through May 5, was 12 on April 7. As of May 5, zero COVID patients required a ventilator.
- Robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing:
 - Lake County has partnered with a private physician to provide COVID-19 testing and immunity testing at three drive-through locations throughout Lake County.
 - The Florida Department of Health in Lake County is participating in a pilot test program to utilize a rapid RNA self-testing kit targeted at long-term care facility workers.
 - The Florida Department of Health in Lake County will utilize the COVID-19 test kits provided by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (700 per week) for community health clinics and underserved areas within the county.
 - Hospitals and private care physicians have performed approximately 90 percent of all COVID-19 tests to date.

I support the move to the next phase of re-opening as I am confident that we can do so in a safe, vigilant manner. Please consider identifying a specific timeframe and date, all things considered, when the next steps to re-open businesses could be expected so that those businesses can plan accordingly. If you wish to discuss this important request, I am available at your convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Leslie Campione, Chairman
Lake County Board of County Commissioners

c: Board of County Commissioners