



The Webster Wire

Listening to Floridians

Dear Friends: This morning the Florida Department of Health [reported](#) 10,397 new positive COVID-19 cases, with a positivity rate of 14.74%. The number of new positive cases [reported in](#) counties in my district as of 9:25 a.m. are:

- 62 new, positive cases in Citrus County, with a positivity rate 11.6%.
- 28 new, positive cases in Hernando County with a positivity rate of 10.2%
- 48 new, positive cases in Lake County with a positivity rate of 7.9%.
- 125 new, positive cases in Marion County with a positivity rate of 21.1%.
- 16 new, positive cases in Sumter County with a positivity rate of 7.4%.

There are additional testing facilities across my district as well. Below is information for these testing sites. [LabCorp](#) and [Quest Diagnostics](#) are also conducting COVID-19 related tests. Visit their websites to find the location closest to you. Note, LabCorp is offering antibody testing. For more information visit my Coronavirus webpage at: <https://webster.house.gov/coronavirus19>

For testing information in your county, visit the links below:

- [Hernando County](#)
- [Sumter County](#)
- [Citrus County](#)
- [Marion County](#)
- [Lake County](#)

Unemployment Benefits Update

New information from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) last week - They have launched a partnership with [ID.me](#) - a trusted technology partner helping to keep claimant's personal information safe. This site is for claimants who are currently locked out of their CONNECT account due to suspected fraud. If you are one of these claimants, you should receive an email from DEO with a link that you need to open to submit additional documentation to unlock your CONNECT account.

Dollars for Property Owners, Renters and Homeowners Affected by COVID-19

Included in the CARES Act passed by Congress was funding to provide rental and mortgage assistance. Governor DeSantis recently announced these funds would be distributed through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing). On Friday, he announced that the Florida Housing Board of Directors had approved the release of \$75 million to local governments to help Floridians in need of rental and mortgage assistance. Several counties in my district are included in this \$75 million allocation, including:

- \$440,765 for distribution within Citrus County
- \$638,000 for distribution within Hernando County
- \$1.3 million for distribution within Lake County
- \$903,000 for distribution within Marion County
- \$309,000 for distribution within Sumter County

Impacted homeowners and renters can apply for the following assistance through a local State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program housing office:

- Rental and mortgage assistance payments for persons who experienced a hardship that prevents them from making these payments;
 - Emergency Repair; and
- Rehabilitation and New Construction related specifically to a need caused by the COVID-19 emergency.

For more information on SHIP and how to start the process, [click here](#). Starting today, 1-888-362-7885 a toll-free Coronavirus Relief Fund for Impacted Homeowners and Renters Information Line is available weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., for those who would like to speak with a representative.

Operation Warp Speed

[Operation Warp Speed](#) is the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) name for their efforts to

support the development, manufacturing and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine by January 2021. This project is partly funded by \$10 billion that Congress appropriated in the CARES Act. Moderna, Inc. will begin their Phase 3 clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine on July 27th.

On Friday, I joined Senator Rubio and other members of the Florida Congressional Delegation on a letter to Secretary Azar requesting HHS expedite the delivery of Remdesivir to Florida Hospitals. We also requested assistance to ensure Florida hospitals and labs stay well stocked with supplies needed to process COVID-19 tests. As the White House Coronavirus Task Force continues to support states, we want to be sure they are using the latest, real-time data to ensure supplies are going to those areas that need it most.

Rapid Response Tests for Nursing Homes

On Tuesday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced rapid, point-of-care- diagnostic test instruments and tests had been secured [for distribution to nursing homes](#) in hotspots across the United States. Distributed through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), nursing homes in key hotspots will receive these tests to bolster their current testing capacity. Nursing homes will also be able to order additional tests directly from the manufacturers.

The data shows that our senior population – particularly those in long term care facilities – are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Thanks to early actions by Governor DeSantis and state health officials, in partnership with local leaders, Florida has led the nation in keeping our vulnerable, seniors in these facilities safe.

As new tests and therapies become available, I believe it is important to prioritize efforts that prevent breakouts in our senior communities and long-term care facilities. By making these tests available to nursing homes in hotspots, the federal government is assisting state and local leaders to better protect these vulnerable populations.

Don't Forget to be Counted

Reminder, it is still census time! The U.S. Constitution requires us to count our population every 10 years. Good news is that my district has one of the highest response rates in the state! You could receive a census form by mail, phone or personal visit. You can complete the questionnaire at my2020census.gov. Please note, the Census Bureau will never ask you for your social security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or your bank account or credit card numbers. [Click here](#) for more info and FAQs.

census facts

The 2020 Census will determine how many congressional representatives each state gets.



Since taking office, combating gang violence, particularly that of the notorious MS-13 gang, has been one of President Trump's priorities. In 2017, the President directed his administration to have a comprehensive approach to dismantle these criminal gangs and Attorney General Barr created Joint Task Force Vulcan to lead law enforcement efforts against MS-13, which included improved coordination and collaboration with foreign law enforcement in El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala.

Last week, the White House and Department of Justice announced additional actions to crack down and hold brutal gang members accountable for their actions. On July 9th, thirteen gang members were charged with 21-count indictment, including narcotics distribution and weapons charges. Another eight members were indicted for involvement with six murders, two attempted murders, kidnapping and narcotics and firearms offenses. Additionally, in fiscal year 2019, ICE agents made almost 4,000 [arrests](#) of transnational gang members, including hundreds of MS-13 members. During this same period U.S. Border Patrol apprehended 464 MS-13 members (an 83% increase from 2016).

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced their final rule that updates National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. This announcement comes after a multi-year review, which produced more than 1.1 million public comments and involved a broad range of stakeholders. The final rule modernizes Federal NEPA regulations, codifies certain court decisions to clarify NEPA's application and expands public involvement in NEPA reviews through the use of modern technology.

For too long, unaccountable bureaucrats have weaponized the environmental review process

to push a political agenda. President Trump knows from personal experience how damaging slow, burdensome red-tape can be to much-needed infrastructure projects. Under old rules, it could take a federal agency an average four and a half years to conduct all required reviews. This is before frequent court challenges that also delayed reviews, increased costs and created all sorts of challenges for businesses and communities. A streamlined process with deadlines will improve the review of critical road, bridge and water projects and save taxpayer dollars.

The United States continues to be a world leader in protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while becoming the largest producer of oil and natural gas in the world.

In a campaign led by White House Senior Adviser Ivanka Trump, the Trump Administration announced a new initiative for young Americans and potential job seekers. Part of the Administration's "Pledge to American Workers," this effort showcases opportunities that will equip individuals with apprenticeships and on-the-job training. Backed by high-tech firms and businesses like Apple, Lockheed Martin, and General Motors, the initiative's goal is to inspire a new generation of the American workforce and help individuals find a career path that best suits them.

The campaign is the product of an 18-month effort to showcase high paying, skilled jobs that don't require a college degree. President Trump stated: *"There has never been a more critical time for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to be aware of the multiple pathways to career success and gain the vocational training and skills they need to fill jobs in a changing economy."* For more information and resources, visit <https://findsomethingnew.org/>

Your servant,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Webster".

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Constituent Corner

A constituent came into my office expressing frustration with the Social Security

Administration. \$7,122.86 in backpay owed to him had been processing in the payment center for several months with no progression. My office made an inquiry, and shortly after, the back payment of \$7,122.86 was awarded to the constituent.

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

Cindy Brown, my Community Relations Representative for The Villages, the City of Wildwood, and South Marion attended Blake and Kate Gallagher's ribbon cutting and the grand opening ceremony for their new furniture store, "Aura Home Living" in Summerfield.



Legislative Update

On Wednesday, I returned to D.C. for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup of H.R. 7575, the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 2020. With this bill, Chairman DeFazio returned to Committee tradition developing this bill with bipartisan input and support. Water is critical for life and solid infrastructure is critical to Florida's economy which is dependent on moving goods and people efficiently and effectively.

Throughout my public service, I have advocated for policies that support local projects and worked to find solutions that preserve and protect Florida's precious natural resources, while

balancing the needs of our growing economy. This legislation authorizes funding for critical ports, inland waterways, locks, dams, flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and other water resources infrastructure important to Florida and our nation.

One important Florida issue brought up in the bill is the management of water that flows out of Lake Okeechobee. The management of Lake Okeechobee has ripple effects across many districts and the region. In recognition of the scope of its impact, for more than 20 years, members and stakeholders across Florida have worked together to find common ground. Our Florida delegation is strong and has for years met to discuss these important issues. Some language was originally proposed that would have required lower water levels in the lake. This requirement would have put numerous Florida communities, the Everglades and our vital agriculture industry at great risk of water shortages during the dry season.

Thankfully, the bill passed without that language. Instead, thanks to hard work with committee leadership and stakeholders across Florida, included in the bill is an agreement that helps tackle algae blooms, while also ensuring water access for everyone and the Everglades are protected. I am committed to working with my delegation members and stakeholders to ensure fair water access for all and proper management of Lake Okeechobee.



Survey

How concerned are you about Coronavirus?

- [Very concerned](#)
- [Somewhat concerned](#)
- [Not concerned at all](#)
 - [Unsure](#)

[submit your response](#)

Results of [last week's survey](#) which asked..."Do you believe schools should return at full

capacity this fall?" Yes - 45%, No - 45%, Unsure - 10%

[unsubscribe](#)

Washington
1210 Longworth
Washington, DC
20515
202-225-1002

Leesburg
318 South 2nd St #A
Leesburg, FL 34748
352-241-9220

Inverness
212 W. Main
Street Suite 208A
Inverness, FL 34450
352-241-9204

The Villages
8015 E. County Road
466 Suite B
The Villages, FL
32162
(352) 383-3552

Brooksville
15 N. Main Street
Suite B
Brooksville, FL 34601
(352) 241-9230