



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-00-03  
Amendment 2**

**RE: COVID-19 OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-23 Amendment 13, and Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-32 Amendment 8, and the COVID-19 Court Operations Subgroup Requirements, Benchmarks, and Guidelines Governing Operational Phase Transitions dated May 6, 2021, judicial circuits are directed to develop an operational plan and to have met specified requirements before transitioning from Phase 2, as described herein.

**WHEREAS** the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit will continue to implement the following health and safety precautions for Phase 2 to protect the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering courthouses and court facilities.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to AOSC 20-23 Amendment 13, AOSC 20-32 Amendment 8, and AO 2020-00-11 and all amendments are incorporated herein, the following operational plan is directed.

**MISSION**

The mission of the Judicial Branch and the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

**GENERAL**

1. The court places the health and safety of all "justice stakeholders" at the highest priority. Likewise, judges shall lead during this pandemic by comporting themselves in such a manner to increase the public's confidence in court operations.
2. All judges will continue to use reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely, in accord with the law.
3. The Chief Judge maintains regular communication with the local health authorities and Florida Department of Health and adjusts this operating plan as necessary with conditions found utilizing the five benchmark criteria as described herein, for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit and each county therein.

4. **Judges shall conclude litigation as soon as it is reasonably and justly possible to do so, take charge of all cases at an early stage and to control the progress of the cases thereafter until it is determined, and apply a firm continuance policy allowing continuances only for good cause shown.**
5. **Judges shall remind members of the Florida Bar that lawyers must strictly comply with Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545 (a), and shall conclude litigation as soon as reasonably and justly possible to do, and that the pandemic alone is not a basis for a lawyer's failure to prepare a case for trial or otherwise actively manage a case. Discovery depositions under Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 3.220., may proceed using remote means or in-person as circumstances dictate.**

**EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

Court Administration has purchased and deployed equipment necessary to promote hygiene, social distancing, and personal protection. Additional supplies and equipment shall be updated and procured on a regular basis. Equipment and supplies may be dependent upon funding sources and availability.

**JUDGES AND COURT STAFF HEALTH (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

1. Judges and court staff should, at a minimum, self-check for symptoms. Judges and staff should follow the advice of their personal physicians when sick and follow CDC and FDOH guidelines, as well as local policies enacted by Court Administration when returning to work from sickness or travel.
2. Judges and court staff are required to wear face coverings during in-person court proceedings, practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations at all time while in public spaces. **In-person court proceedings mean the assembly of prospective jurors, voir dire, juror deliberations, and any status conference, hearing, trial, or other proceeding conducted by a judge, magistrate or hearing officer if conducted in-person and other such proceeds as designated by the Chief Judge.**
3. Protective Measures:
  - Hand sanitizer is widely available throughout the courthouse, including inside courtrooms, and the bench area.
  - Masks will be available in all courtrooms and hearings rooms.
4. Court Administration continues to provide available supplies, training, and other technical assistance to judges and/or court staff, if necessary, on any changes/updates to this operational plan.
5. The Clerk will continue to provide for general cleaning of court facilities.

6. Relevant CDC and Florida Department of Health guidance will be communicated to judges and court staff on an on-going process.
7. The release of any sensitive health information shall be safeguarded by all judges and court staff.

**SCHEDULING (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

1. Judges and court managers shall continue to meet with their designated deputy clerks to establish staggered schedules to meet maximum occupancy in each courtroom. **All judges shall stagger each docket of in-person litigants.**

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

1. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy, are considered to be vulnerable populations.
2. Upon notice each judge will include information on orders setting hearings, docket notices, and in other communications, informing individuals who are in vulnerable populations of the ability to contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and receive accommodations.
3. Vulnerable populations who are scheduled for court will be accommodated by flexible court dates and continuation of existing court dates to Phases 3 and 4.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

1. Only litigants and persons required for the proceeding are permitted in the courthouse during Phase 2. Live streaming options may be available in certain courts, and for those types of hearings where recordings are available, arrangements for purchase of said recordings may be made through Court Reporting Services.
2. All persons who are permitted in the court building shall maintain adequate social distancing. The CDC recommends staying at least six feet from other people.
3. Each restroom has been evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and the maximum capacity.
4. While in Phase 2, public common areas, including breakrooms and snack rooms, remain closed to the public, unless otherwise designated.

*Gallery*

5. The maximum number of persons permitted in the gallery of each courtroom has been posted by the Clerk of Court. The maximum capacity of the courtroom is being monitored and enforced by judges and court staff where available.
6. The gallery of the courtroom has been marked to identify appropriate social distancing in the seating.
7. Each courtroom and place where in-person proceedings occur is marked with signage indicating the requirement to wear masks therein during in-person court proceedings.

*Well*

8. In each courtroom, the counsel tables, witness stand, judge's bench, and clerk, court reporter, and bailiff seating are arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing. Marking may also be placed on the floor. Area shields are deployed to each courtroom for enhanced protection to persons in the well area.

**HYGIENE (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

1. **Face masks shall be worn by everyone during in-person court proceedings. Each constitutional officer maintaining an office in a Court facility shall exercise independent judgment and discretion as to levels of screening and PPE (including masks) worn by their respective staffs and patrons consistent with this Order.**
  - This condition may change based upon the dynamic nature of present circumstances and COVID-19 infections.

**SCREENING**

1. Based upon current health conditions in Florida, there is no longer a need for screening at Courthouse front doors.

**FACE COVERINGS (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**

1. Present medical advice advocates that adequate face masks offer the best protection in closed settings. **All persons must wear masks during in-person court proceedings. Persons who cannot medically tolerate mask wearing will be evaluated on a case by case basis by Court Administration.**
2. Individuals should bring masks and/or cloth face coverings with them. If a person does not have a cloth mask, one will be provided by the Court so long as supplies last.

**CLEANING (All previous requirements are incorporated by reference to earlier versions of this Plan except as noted)**



1. The Clerk of Court in partnership with its county shall arrange for regular cleaning of public areas and courtrooms utilizing cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.

### **BENCHMARKS FOR TRANSITIONING THROUGH PHASES AND ANY REVERSIONS**

The Florida Supreme Court identified four phases of the pandemic: a) in-person contact is inadvisable, court facilities are effectively closed to the public, and in-person proceedings are rare (Phase 2, current phase); b) limited in-person contact is authorized for certain purposes and/or requires use of protective measures (Phase 2); c) in-person contact is more broadly authorized and protective measures are relaxed (Phase 3); and d) COVID-19 no longer presents a significant risk to public health and safety (Phase 4). The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit shall follow these benchmarks as guidance for moving through different Phases, based on local conditions and resources. If local conditions deteriorate, or resources become strained, it may be necessary for a court to return to a previous Phase or adjust facets of how it is operating in the current Phase to meet the current public health situation or the needs of the court.

The following benchmark criteria must be met prior to any court in this Circuit transitioning through various Phases:

1. No confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the court facility within a 14-day period; or if confirmed or suspected cases have occurred in the court facility, deep cleaning and disinfecting of exposed areas *have been completed* and applicable employees *have been directed to self-isolate* or quarantine. *See Grid.*
2. *There are no local or state* restrictive movement or stay-at-home orders *that limit the ability of individuals to leave their homes during the daytime nor impede transition to Phase 2. See Grid.*
3. Improving COVID-19 health conditions over a 14-day period in the community. The public health data<sup>1</sup> necessary to determine whether this benchmark has been met will be provided on an Intranet page maintained by OSCA that will be updated on a weekly basis. This data will provide seven-day averages at the county level for the most recent four-week period for the following measures:
  - a. The daily number of new positive COVID-19 cases (“new cases”).
  - b. The daily percentage of positive tests based on the total number tests (“positivity rates”);<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The data source for the daily number of new positive COVID-19 cases, daily numbers of hospitalization for COVID-19, and daily number of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness is: Florida COVID-19 Case Line Data from the Florida Department of Health, <https://open-fdoh.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/florida-covid19-case-line-data/data>. The data source for the daily percentage of positive tests based on the total number tests is: Daily county reports from the Florida Department of Health, [https://www11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19\\_reports\\_archive/](https://www11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/partners/covid19_reports_archive/). The data dictionary for these sources may be found at: Florida Department of Health, <https://fdoh.maps.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/content/items/efffb9350de948ac9d67f9d74190413d/data>.

<sup>2</sup> In using the positivity rate data for purposes of determining whether to transition to Phase 2 or 3 or for reversion, as discussed later in this document, the percentages may not be rounded to the nearest whole number.

- c. The daily number of hospitalizations for COVID-19 (“hospitalizations”); and
- d. The daily number of emergency department visits for COVID-like illness (“ED visits”).

To ensure uniformity statewide, courts must use this data and the following methodology in determining whether this benchmark has been met. For purposes of the methodology, the phrase “two consecutive weeks of decline or stabilization” with respect to new cases, hospitalizations, and ED visits means that the measure’s seven-day average for:

- a. The most recent week is lower than or equal to the seven-day average for the measure for the prior week; and
- b. The prior week is lower than or equal to the seven-day average for the measure for the week that is two weeks prior to the most recent week.

To meet this benchmark, condition a) or b) below must be met:

- a. Both of the seven-day averages for new cases for the most recent two-week period must be 20 or fewer<sup>3</sup> and both of the following measures must demonstrate two consecutive weeks of decline or stabilization:
  - i. The seven-day averages for hospitalizations for the most recent two-week period; and
  - ii. The seven-day averages for ED visits for the most recent two-week period.
- b. If either of the seven-day averages for new cases for the most recent two-week period exceed 20, then both of the following criteria must be met:
  - i. The seven-day averages for new cases for most recent two-week period must demonstrate two consecutive weeks of decline or stabilization: and
  - ii. Both seven-day averages for the positivity rate for the most recent two-week period must be less than 10 percent. If not, then both averages must be less than 11 percent and both of the following measures must demonstrate two consecutive weeks of decline or stabilization.
    - a. The seven-day averages for hospitalizations for the most recent two-week period; and
    - b. The seven-day averages for ED visits for the most recent two-week period.

Courts meeting the criteria for this benchmark based on declining or stabilizing new cases and positivity rates less than 10 percent may also consider the data for hospitalizations and ED visits as well as other public health data that may be available before determining whether to transition to the next phase. Given the evolving science and dynamic nature of the pandemic, other factors may weigh against transitioning even when this benchmark is met based on the referenced measures. For example, hospitalizations or ED visits may be increasing or hospital bed or intensive care unit capacity may be decreasing although the numbers of new cases and positivity rates have declined. Moreover, resource constraints, such as insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) or a shortage in staffing, or other operational issues may exist. In any of these instances, the chief judge should consider delaying a transition until health conditions improve or operational or other issues are resolved.

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<sup>3</sup> Due to the lower rates of testing in smaller counties, positivity rates can be significantly increased by only one or two positive test results. To account for this effect, the methodology authorizes counties having 20 or fewer new cases weekly for the most recent two-week period to consider the hospitalization and ED visit measures instead of positivity rates.

The Fourteenth Circuit has developed a “pause mechanism” wherein all in-person hearings are paused should health conditions worsen. These pauses will be reviewed by local health officials to determine if a pause should lead to a reversion to a prior Phase.

4. Sufficient availability of COVID-19 tests to meet community needs. *Local providers have made testing available to all counties of the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. FDOH and local hospitals are presently conducting drive thru testing in all areas of the circuit. Testing rates have increased throughout the Circuit. See Grid.*
5. Consultation with other building occupants (for multi-tenant courthouses or buildings) and with justice system partners (including, but not limited to clerk of court, state attorney, public defender, law enforcement, Department of Children and Families, Guardian ad Litem, local bar, and others necessary) to resume certain case types. *Local COVID-19 Courthouse Workgroups have been established in each county to establish safety protocols in the court facility. See Grid.*

Benchmarks	Bay	Calhoun	Gulf	Holmes	Jackson	Washington
No cases in facility within 14 days or deep clean	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rescission of restrictive movement and/or stay at home orders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Improving health conditions over 14-day period	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Adequate testing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Consultation with building occupants and justice partners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**TRANSITIONING TO PHASE 2, PHASE 3, AND PRIORITY HEARINGS**

1. In-person hearings shall only be conducted in accord with the Memorandum dated May 21, 2020, *Proceeding Priority When Limited In-Person Contact is authorized in Phase 2.*
2. In accord with AOSC 20-23 Amendment 13, non-statewide grand jury selection and proceedings, civil jury selection and proceedings and criminal jury selections and proceedings shall remain suspended until 30 days after the chief judge of the judicial circuit has determined that the circuit and/or county has transitioned to Phase 2. Provided the county’s health data demonstrates compliance with the applicable benchmarks to permit a



transition, a 30 day period shall commence before any jury trials are authorized. If a County reverts to Phase 1, only after the county's health data demonstrates compliance with the applicable benchmarks to transition shall the 30 day period commence to allow for jury trials.

3. While operating in Phase 2 public data and local health conditions shall be monitored on at least a weekly basis to determine if modification to operations, an amendment to the operational plan or reversion to phase is necessary.
4. The Chief Judge and Court Administration shall develop an additional transition plan and seek approval from the Chief Justice for any county eligible to transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 (after a vaccine is readily available), and any reversion as may be applicable.

### **Chief Judge Responsibilities**

The Chief Judge will monitor implementation of the Operational Plan and the actions of the CDC and Florida Department of Health and seek their recommendations. The Chief Judge will continue operating and contingency planning for the next thirty days for each county in the Circuit.

The Chief Judge will continually gather situational awareness information. The Chief Judge shall select an appropriate course of action (i.e. proceed with Phase 2 or recede to Phase 1 given medical/statistical data available at the time). The Chief Judge shall communicate this decision in writing to the judges, clerk of court, sheriff, State Attorney, Public Defender, DCF, GAL, Office of Regional Conflict Counsel, local bar, and other courthouse tenants as needed.

The Chief Judge shall prepare a memorandum detailing health data and conditions for the previous two week period and share with all "justice stakeholders" on a weekly basis. **Weekly COVID-19 updates are attached hereto from March 23, 2021 to present. All previous Weekly COVID Update memoranda are attached in previous amendments.**

In the event of a Phase change, an updated Operational Plan shall be filed in accordance with Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-23 Amendment 13, and Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-32 Amendment 8, and the COVID-19 Court Operations Subgroup Requirements, Benchmarks, and Guidelines Governing Operational Phase Transitions dated May 6, 2021.

This process shall be completed each month and for each county in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit until otherwise ordered.

Administrative Judges, the Trial Court Administrator, senior staff and court managers, clerks of court (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington), sheriffs of each county within the Circuit, Florida Department of Health and other health experts for each county, other building occupants, State Attorney, Public Defender, Office of Regional Conflict Counsel, DCF, GAL, and local bar representatives have all been apprised and their comments have been considered in making this operational plan.

**COMMUNICATION**

All updates to this plan, any ensuing plans and relevant administrative orders shall be communicated electronically, via Twitter, Instagram, and placed on each circuits' website, as well as filed in accordance with Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-23 Amendment 13, and Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC 20-32 Amendment 8, and the COVID-19 Court Operations Subgroup Requirements, Benchmarks, and Guidelines Governing Operational Phase Transitions dated May 6, 2021, as well as all other applicable orders. Relevant informational videos shall be placed on the circuit website and YouTube. Any other information or requests shall be handled by the Court Public Information Officers.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers, at Panama City, Bay County, Florida, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



CHRISTOPHER N. PATTERSON  
CHIEF JUDGE





CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.

May 4, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: May 4, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates for persons 18 years of age and above as of April 30 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 7% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 – 5%; stable weekly positivity rate; stable hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 29.6%.**

**Calhoun 4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 1%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 20.4%.**

**Gulf 6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 6% with limited testing; stable rate of hospitalizations and stable rate of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 31.3%.**

**Holmes 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 4%; stable hospitalizations; stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 18.4%.**

**Jackson 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 6%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 25.5%.**

**Washington 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/25 5%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a stable rate of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Vaccination rate 18.1%.**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 13; Calhoun 0; Gulf 2; Holmes 0; Jackson 2; Washington 0.



CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.


April 27, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: April 27, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates for persons 18 years of age and above as of April 26 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 6.6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 – 5.8%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 27.9%.**

**Calhoun 4.7% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 6.6%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 19.6%.**

**Gulf 4.5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 10% with limited testing; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 30.2%.**

**Holmes 3.7% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 5%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 17.6%.**

**Jackson 3.5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 3.6%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 24.5%.**

**Washington 3.7% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/18 2%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Vaccination rate 17%.**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 13; Calhoun 0; Gulf 1; Holmes 0; Jackson 1; Washington 0.

**NOTE: The Governor has extended the state of emergency for Florida in EO 21-94 for an additional 60 days from this date, with a view to resuming non-emergency operations thereafter.**



CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.


April 20, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: April 20, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates for persons 18 years of age and above as of April 15 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 6.6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 – 7%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 26.3%.**



**Calhoun 2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 5%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 18.6%.**

**Gulf 3% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 2%; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 28.2%.**

**Holmes 1.6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 3%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 16.3%.**

**Jackson 3% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 3.5%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits. Vaccination rate 23%.**

**Washington 4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/11 4%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Vaccination rate 15.4%.**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 13; Calhoun 0; Gulf 1; Holmes 0; Jackson 1; Washington 0.



CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.

April 13, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: April 13, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates as of April 4 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 5.2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 - 5.7%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 17.3%.**

**Calhoun 4.4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 1.6%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 13.8%.**

**Gulf 3.4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 3.9%; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 17.9%.**

**Holmes 2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 2.3%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 12.8%.**

**Jackson 2.8% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 2.7%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 16.12%.**

**Washington 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 4/4 7.7%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Full vaccination rate [Incomplete data this week].**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 10; Calhoun 0; Gulf 0; Holmes 0; Jackson 1; Washington 0.



CHAMBERS OF  
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FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

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April 6, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: April 6, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates as of April 4 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 – 4.6%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 14.4%.**

**Calhoun 6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 6.5%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 13.98%.**

**Gulf 5.2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 5%; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 16.24%.**

**Holmes 3% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 2.4%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 11.49%.**

**Jackson 4.7% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 3%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 14.78%.**

**Washington 4.5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/28 4%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Full vaccination rate 10.80%.**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 12 (UP); Calhoun 0; Gulf 0; Holmes 0; Jackson 3; Washington 3.





CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties

Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.


March 30, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners

FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge 

RE: March 30, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

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I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings.

Data for each County as to full vaccination rates as of March 29 is also included.

As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

**Bay 5.4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 – 4%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 12.5%.**

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*Our Vision: Justice in Florida will be Accessible, Fair, Effective, Accountable, and Responsive*

**Calhoun 3.6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 4%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 12.5%.**

**Gulf 5.2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 8%; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 15%.**

**Holmes 3.2% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 4.5%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 10%.**

**Jackson 5.9% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 4%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits. Full vaccination rate 13%.**

**Washington 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/21 5%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19. Full vaccination rate 10%.**

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 6; Calhoun 0; Gulf 1; Holmes 0; Jackson 3; Washington 1.



CHAMBERS OF  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties


Christopher N. Patterson  
Circuit Judge, B.C.S.

March 23, 2021

300 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
P.O. BOX 2237 (32402)  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401  
(850) 914-6485  
(850) 747-5159 FAX

Amanda Williams  
Judicial Assistant  
williamsa@jud14.flcourts.org

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Justice Partners  
FR: Christopher N. Patterson, Chief Judge   
RE: March 23, 2021 Weekly COVID-19 Update

---

I am forwarding weekly health data from the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). For additional information included is the cumulative positivity rates for the previous week.

According to the FDOH average positive testing rates of less than 10% are acceptable ranges. OSCA databases and daily FL-AHCA Emergency Department statistics are also consulted along with state/local health officials in reaching these findings. As of this date, the data available for each County is as follows:

***Bay 6% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 – 9%; stable weekly positivity rate; significant reduction in hospitalizations, and stable rates of Emergency Department visits.***

***Calhoun 4.5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 4.4%; stable rates of hospitalizations and Emergency Department visits.***

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*Our Vision: Justice in Florida will be Accessible, Fair, Effective, Accountable, and Responsive*

***Gulf 4% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 4.6%; stable rate of hospitalizations and reduced rate of Emergency Department visits.***

***Holmes 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 2.3%; decreased rate of hospitalizations rate; slight decreased rates of Emergency Department visits.***

***Jackson 5% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 3.6%; stable rates of hospitalizations with a decrease of Emergency Department visits.***

***Washington 3% average positive test rates for past 14 days; cumulative positivity rates per DOH for week ending 3/13 2.3%; there is a stable rate of hospitalizations, with a decrease of Emergency Department visits for COVID-19.***

**All Counties within the 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continue to meet requirements of Benchmark 3, AO 2021-00-03. In-person hearings are permitted.**

COVID Hospitalizations: Bay 11; Calhoun 0; Gulf 0; Holmes 0; Jackson 2; Washington 1.



A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
BILL KINSAUL CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By *Bill Kinsaul*  
Deputy Clerk