

September 17, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTY PROVIDES COVID-19 UPDATE, ANNOUNCES ONE COVID-19 RELATED DEATH AND 22 CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES



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Panama City, Fla.— The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) confirmed one COVID-19 related death, an 82-year-old woman (case confirmed August 15). DOH-Bay offers condolences to the family and will continue to work diligently with our community partners to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County (DOH-Bay) received confirmation of 21 additional cases of COVID-19 in Bay County residents with 293 negative test results and an 6.69% positive rate for September 16. There is one new non-Florida resident case.

According to the Agency for Health Care Administration, as of 10 a.m. today there are 29 persons in Bay County hospitals with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19.

The age range for Bay County residents testing positive for COVID-19 for September 16 is 0-4 years (0), 5-14 years (1), 15-24 years (2), 25-34 (3), 35-44 (1), 45-54 (4), 55-64 (7), 65-74 (2), 75-84 (1), 85+ (0), and unknown (0).

Bay County's total case count is at 5,754 including 5,665 residents and 89 non-residents. There have been 94 COVID-19 related deaths of Bay County residents. There have been 23 deaths associated with long-term care facilities. Bay County's overall COVID-19 positive testing rate is 17 percent. Of the 32,783 tests processed, 27,051 tests are negative.

Cities of Bay County cases based on patient's ZIP Code: Panama City (3,673), Lynn Haven (864), Panama City Beach (727), Youngstown (123), Southport (87), Fountain (64), Missing (63), Callaway (25), Tyndall Air Force Base (12), Mexico Beach (12), Parker (5), Vernon (3), Inlet Beach (2), Bayou George (2), Seacrest (1), Rosemary Beach (1), and Watersound (1).

Data is preliminary and subject to change based on public health investigations.

COVID-19 Question of the Day

Why is it even more critical to get a flu shot with COVID-19 and when should I get it?

County health departments in Florida are urging residents to contact their health care provider or pharmacy to get vaccinated against the flu as soon as possible. Once vaccinated, it takes about two weeks to offer protection.

Getting the flu shot each year is important but reducing illness and hospitalization from flu is even more critical this year to protect frontline health care workers and hospital systems who will continue to care for people with COVID-19 and other illnesses.

The flu and COVID-19 are respiratory illnesses, but until there is a steady vaccine supply against COVID-19, the way to prevent these two viruses from circulating at the same time is to get your flu vaccine now.

To learn more, contact your health care provider, pharmacist, or DOH-Bay at (850) 872-4455 or visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov.

Prevention

One Goal One Florida asks all Floridians to join this important initiative by following these simple, yet effective steps to mitigate and slow the spread of the virus:

1. **Protect the vulnerable**, including the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions
2. **Practice proper hygiene**, including washing your hands
3. **Practice social distancing**, avoiding closed spaces and crowded places
4. **Wear a mask**, if you are in close contact with others

Testing

*****Bay County sponsored testing sites at Lynn Haven Sports Park and Callaway Recreational Complex are closed today due to road flooding caused by Hurricane Sally. Testing sites will reopen tomorrow (Friday).*****

Bay County

Lynn Haven Sports Park
2201 Recreation Drive

Callaway Recreational Complex
500 Callaway Parkway

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Criteria: 18 and older with photo identification required upon arrival for appointment and Children 5-17 can be tested with a parent or guardian

Cost: Free

Appointments recommended. To make an appointment for a test, visit <https://makoexchangedev.com/baycounty/>. While appointments are encouraged, walk-in clients are being accepted at both testing locations after 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and after 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

*****DOH-Bay COVID-19 is resuming operations today (Thursday).*****

DOH-Bay

DOH-Bay is testing anyone **with symptoms** of COVID-19. For screening, please call DOH-Bay at (850) 872-4455 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and follow the prompts. Testing is by **appointment only**. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea, and/or sore throat. The CDC has a symptom checker available at [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/). For additional testing options and information, visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov.

Test Results

Bay County Testing Sites

To contact the testing lab to inquire about your results, please call (919) 390-3060 or email info@makomedical.com. You will **receive a text message** when your **results** are ready. You will **access your test results** through the same website where you registered for testing. Simply visit <https://makoexchangedev.com/baycounty/>, log-in, and there is a link to get results.

DOH-Bay

Exposed or tested positive? Look out for an official call from COVID-19 contact tracers. Answer calls from **833-673-0864 (0865,0866, 0867, 0868), 833-443-5364, or 850-583-2419**, or county health departments to discuss potential exposure to COVID-19 with a contact tracer. Contact tracers will NEVER ask for your Social Security number or financial information. Save the numbers in your contacts so you never miss the call.

If you need physical copies of your COVID-19 test results, please follow the directions below:

Phone: Call (850) 872-4455 and follow the prompts to COVID test results prompts and request the status with the representative. You will be provided with the option to obtain your results in person (if negative) or electronically (negative or positive).

Office: If you come to our office, do not get out of your car. Please **call (850) 872-4455 and follow the COVID test results prompts**. Please let us know you are in the parking lot and we will **deliver your results to you in your vehicle**.

Email: You can make your request by emailing baymedicalrecords@flhealth.gov. After you complete the authorization form, you will need to respond with a picture of your photo ID and we will send your result to you via an encrypted email. The email must be viewed on a desktop or laptop PC as the encryption is not mobile friendly.

Additional Data

The state provides a report detailing surveillance data for every Florida county, which is available [here](#).

In order to make the daily COVID-19 report easier to download and more accessible, the daily report will now separate case line data in a separate PDF. Both reports will continue to be updated daily. The case line data report is available [here](#).

Florida long-term care facility data:

- The list of long-term care facilities with active COVID-19 cases is available [here](#).
- The list of long-term care facilities with deaths is available [here](#), which is updated weekly.

The antibody COVID-19 test results report will be provided once a week and contains county, race and lab information on antibody COVID-19 tests conducted in Florida. The report for antibody tests conducted by private health care providers is available [here](#) and the report for antibody tests conducted at state-supported COVID-19 testing sites is available [here](#).

The Agency for Health Care Administration added an additional tab to the [Hospital Bed Capacity Dashboard](#) to reflect hospitalizations with the primary diagnosis of COVID-19.

More information on a case-by-case basis can also be found [here](#).

For more Information on COVID-19

For text alert updates from the Florida Department of Health in Bay County, text “bayhealth” to 888-777. For additional information specific to Bay County, visit <http://bay.floridahealth.gov/> or BayHealthCOVID19.com. Contact the Citizens Information Center seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at (850) 248-6090, or email ask@baycountyfl.gov.

To find the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19, please visit the Department of Health’s dedicated COVID-19 website at FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov. For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, call (866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours per day or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

The free *StrongerThanC19* app is available to both iOS and Android users and can be downloaded from the Apple or Google app stores. The *StrongerThanC19* app and [website](#) are designed to gather information to help the Department of Health track and slow the spread of COVID-19 in Florida; they are not intended to be used as a symptom checker designed to dispense medical advice.

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About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.