

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

HEALTH POLICY
Senator Diaz, Chair
Senator Brodeur, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

TIME: 9:00—11:30 a.m.

PLACE: *Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Diaz, Chair; Senator Brodeur, Vice Chair; Senators Albritton, Baxley, Bean, Book, Cruz, Farmer, Garcia, and Jones

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE RECEIVED FROM ROOM A3 AT THE DONALD L. TUCKER CIVIC CENTER, 505 W. PENSACOLA STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306			
Discussion of Florida's COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts by the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health		Presented	
Other Related Meeting Documents			

Florida's COVID-19 Response Updates

Senate Health Policy Committee

January 13, 2021



Shamarial Roberson, DrPH, MPH
Deputy Secretary for Health
Florida Department of Health



The Florida Department of Health (FDOH), comprised of a State Health Office in Tallahassee and 67 County Health Departments (CHDs), operates as an integrated public health system.

Emergency Response Partners



COVID-19 Progression

March 1, 2020 - First Florida Cases Identified

Testing

Contact Tracing

Treatment

- Remdesivir
- Monoclonal antibodies

December 11, 2020 - Vaccine

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the first emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine



COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies



**Practice social distancing
and avoid crowds**



**Wash hands
regularly**



**Avoid touching eyes,
nose and mouth**



**Clean and disinfect
“high-touch” surfaces**



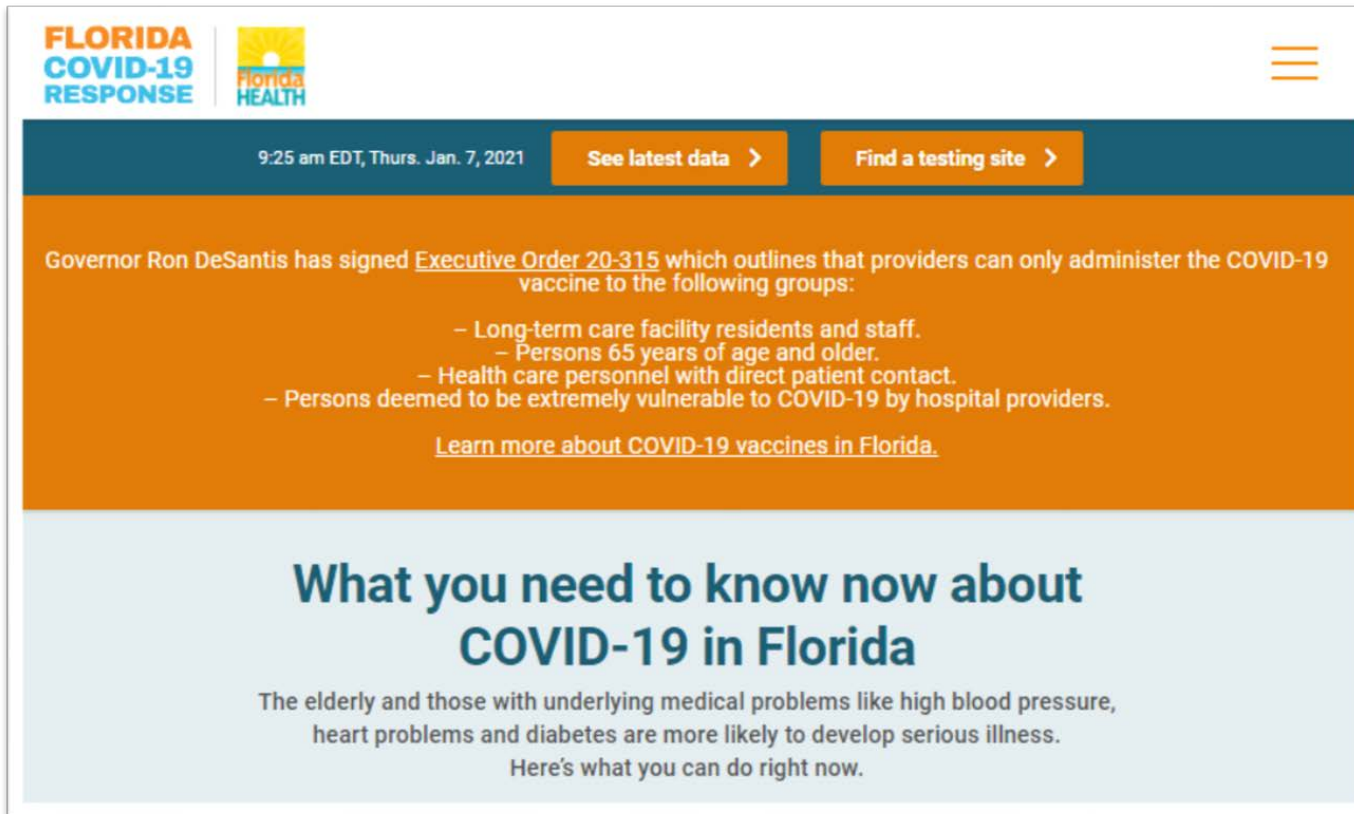
**Wear a cloth face
covering in public**



**Stay home
when sick**

FLORIDA COVID-19 RESPONSE

Website and Social Media



The screenshot shows the Florida COVID-19 Response website. At the top left is the 'FLORIDA COVID-19 RESPONSE' logo, and next to it is the 'Florida HEALTH' logo. A dark blue navigation bar contains the date '9:25 am EDT, Thurs. Jan. 7, 2021' and two orange buttons: 'See latest data >' and 'Find a testing site >'. The main content area has an orange background with a headline about Governor Ron DeSantis signing Executive Order 20-315. Below this is a bulleted list of groups eligible for the vaccine. A light blue section follows with the heading 'What you need to know now about COVID-19 in Florida' and a paragraph about high-risk groups.

FLORIDA COVID-19 RESPONSE | **Florida HEALTH**

9:25 am EDT, Thurs. Jan. 7, 2021 [See latest data >](#) [Find a testing site >](#)

Governor Ron DeSantis has signed [Executive Order 20-315](#) which outlines that providers can only administer the COVID-19 vaccine to the following groups:

- Long-term care facility residents and staff.
- Persons 65 years of age and older.
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact.
- Persons deemed to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 by hospital providers.

[Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines in Florida.](#)

What you need to know now about COVID-19 in Florida

The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness.
Here's what you can do right now.

Media Campaigns and Toolkits



Data and Reports

Current Situation in Florida

New Cases by Day



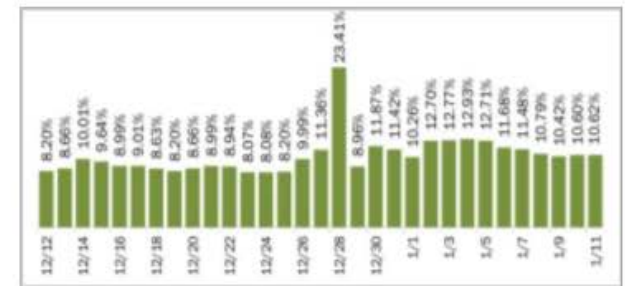
[Click to View Larger](#)

Death by Date of Death



[Click to View Larger](#)

New Case Positivity Rate



[Click to View Larger](#)

Reaching Vulnerable Populations

- Long-term care strike teams
- Guidance for health care providers on chronic conditions
- Federally qualified health center (FQHC) testing partnerships
- Beauty shops, barber shops and faith-based organizations

COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 Cases Summary

Total Cases: 1,503,482

Resident Cases: 1,476,484

Resident Deaths: 23,227

83% of deaths have been among those 65 or older

**Compared to other states, Florida
ranks 28th in cases and 25th in deaths**

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Two COVID-19 vaccines have received emergency use authorization from the FDA
 - December 11, 2020 - Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
 - Ages 16 years and older
 - Two doses, 21 days apart
 - Requires ultra-low-temperature storage
 - December 18, 2020 - Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
 - Ages 18 and older
 - Two doses, 28 days apart
 - Requires frozen vaccine storage

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Process

Federal government sets vaccine allocations



States order vaccines weekly



Federal government ships to vaccine providers



Vaccine providers may transfer vaccines to other vaccine providers

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution*

COVID-19 Vaccine	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Pfizer					
<i>Hospitals</i>	97,500	35,100	17,550	22,425	9,750
<i>CHDs</i>	21,450	68,250	120,900	28,275	67,275
<i>LTCFs</i>	60,450	24,375	24,375	76,050	50,700
Moderna					
<i>Hospitals</i>	0	270,700	33,200	4,000	43,500
<i>CHDs</i>	0	97,200	93,900	51,200	53,600
<i>FQHCs</i>	0	0	0	56,400	0
<i>Publix</i>	0	0	0	15,000	30,000

*Second doses of 222,300 not included

Data as of 1/11/21



COVID-19 Vaccine Eligible Populations

Eligible populations under Executive Order 20-315:

- Long-term care facility residents and staff
- Persons 65 years of age and older
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact
- Persons deemed extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 by hospital providers

COVID-19 Vaccine Providers

Eligible Populations Under Executive Order 20-315	Primary Vaccine Providers	Additional Vaccine Providers
Long-term care facility residents and staff	CVS and Walgreens	FDOH and FDEM
Persons 65 years of age and older	CHDs	Hospitals and other community health care providers, including FQHCs
Health care personnel with direct patient contact	Hospitals and COVID-19 vaccine providers	CHDs and other community providers, including FQHCs
Persons deemed extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 by hospital providers	Hospital providers	



Total People Vaccinated: 648,353

First Dose: 597,119

Series Complete: 52,334

54% of those vaccinated are 65 years or older

Vaccine Collaborations

- FDOH and FDEM are partnering with faith-based organizations to host COVID-19 vaccination sites to reach designated populations in underserved communities
- Partnering with the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to advance COVID-19 vaccine education in Florida
- Continuing to expand statewide media campaign efforts to increase education about and awareness of COVID-19 vaccines in Florida.



Vaccine Resources

- FDOH COVID-19 Vaccine Report Available at [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19/vaccine-report)
- [FDOH COVID-19 Vaccines in Florida Webpage](#)
 - Webpage available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.
- [FDOH COVID-19 Vaccine Infographics](#)
 - Infographics are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole.
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccines Webpage](#)
- [FDA COVID-19 Vaccines Webpage](#)
- [FDA Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - Fact sheets available in multiple languages.
- [FDA Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - Fact sheets available in multiple languages.

Thank You

COVID-19 Update

Agency for Health Care Administration

Acting Secretary Shevaun Harris
Senate Committee on Health Policy
January 13, 2020

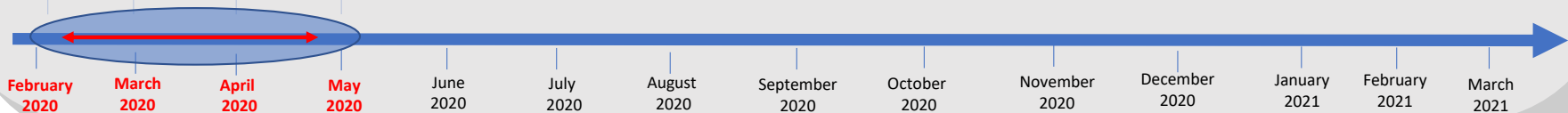




1: Ensure Access to Care and Information

1. Removed barriers to accessing care for Medicaid recipients and providers.

- Among one of the first states to implement federal CMS approved flexibilities to remove barriers to accessing care for Medicaid recipients and providers during the public health emergency, including:
 - Lifted service limits
 - Waived frequency and duration limits for behavioral health services
 - Expanded telehealth coverage to behavior analysis, therapy, specified behavioral health, and early intervention services
 - Waived prior authorization requirements for COVID-19 related and other services
 - Expedited provider enrollment process
 - Made retention and advanced payments to critical home and community-based providers

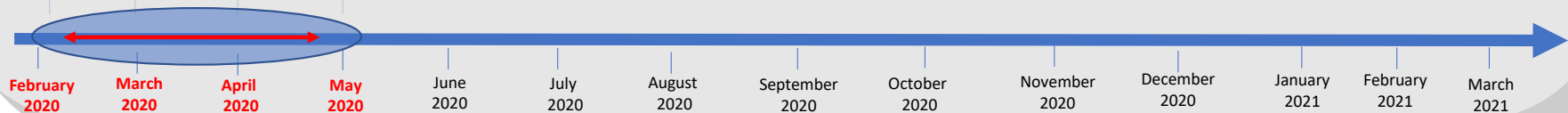




1: Ensure Access to Care and Information

2. Removed regulatory barriers and provided structured infection control and prevention guidance to regulated health care facilities.

- Communicated regularly with facilities regarding CDC and other infection prevention and control guidelines. Promulgated emergency rules, relating to:
 - Hospital screening requirements for LTC residents
 - Required LTC facilities to allow DOH entry into the facility for infection prevention and control purposes
 - Mandatory testing for LTC facility staff

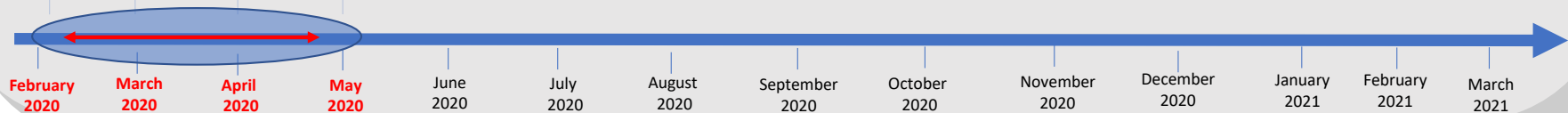




1: Ensure Access to Care and Information

3. Enhanced outbound communications/ information to providers through AHCA website.

- Online COVID-19 information portal to provide guidance for facilities and Medicaid providers, including information on:
 - Federal provider relief funding
 - Medicaid coverage of COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 related services
 - Medicaid retention or advanced payments
 - COVID-19 reporting requirements for facilities
 - Emergency Orders and Rules issued by the State related to COVID-19

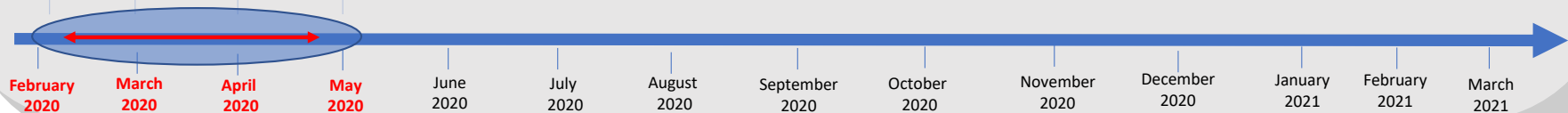




1: Ensure Access to Care and Information

4. Developed critical hospital data dashboard using data submitted by hospitals.

- Enhanced AHCA's Emergency Status System reporting to capture real time information regarding COVID-19 preparation, cases, testing, and vaccinations, including:
 - Created an ad hoc question module for quick collection of COVID-19 data
 - Launched statewide hospital bed capacity dashboard that provided up-to-date hospital bed availability by county and hospital

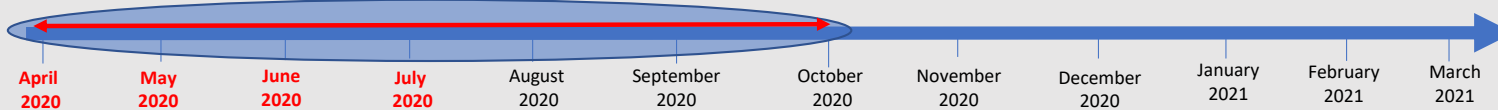




2: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

1. Established dedicated COVID-19 isolation nursing facilities.

- Developed innovative model of COVID-19 isolation nursing facilities, dedicated to serving patients in need of long-term care services who were also diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - Allowed for appropriate isolation and recovery of COVID-19 positive patients
 - First group of facilities established in April 2020 – approximately 200 beds available
 - Regional resources for any COVID-19 positive patient requiring nursing facility level of care
 - Required to accept patients with any type of insurance and patients who were uninsured
- By July, the Agency had executed agreements with 23 facilities statewide with the capacity to serve up to 1,500 patients needing COVID-19 isolation.

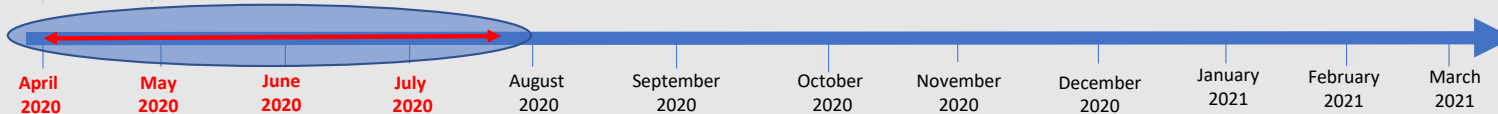




2: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

2. Visitation protocol implemented to protect long-term care facility residents.

- In conjunction with the Division of Emergency Management and other stakeholders, established visitation protocol for long-term care facilities, including:
 - Developed initial visitor screening toolkit in conjunction with stakeholders
 - Implemented DEM Emergency Order 20-006, prohibiting all non-essential entry into long-term care facilities except in certain limited circumstances
 - Participated in Governor DeSantis' Task Force on the Safe and Limited Re-Opening of Long-Term Care Facilities

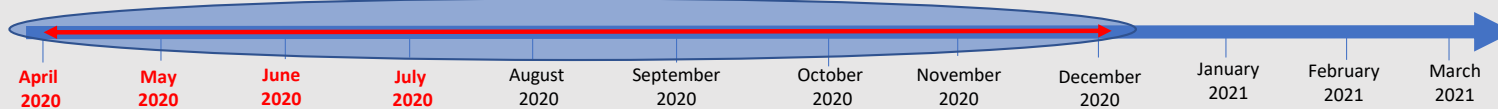




2: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

3. Protected Residents and Patients through Infection Prevention Inspections.

- Site visits continued during the public health emergency period to monitor facility compliance with infection control and prevention and other regulatory requirements
- 7,322 focused infection control visits were conducted between March and December 2020

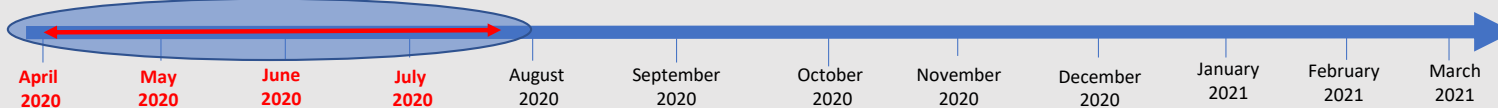




2: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

4. Facilitated conversations between hospitals and long-term care facilities to determine best practices when transferring patients.

- Supported health care facilities when determining the path for the safe, appropriate transfer of patients. Efforts included:
 - Issuing Emergency Rule 59AER20-1 to require COVID-19 testing by hospitals of all patients, regardless of symptoms, prior to discharging to long-term care facilities
 - Allowing discharge of COVID-19 positive patients, if the LTC has a dedicated unit with dedicated staff
 - Expanding the number of COVID-19 isolation facilities across the state to provide more space for ICU and acute care patients
 - Modifying rules to recognize symptom-based approach to discharge of COVID -19 patients in addition to test-based option





3: Preparing for a Vaccine

1. **Serve as member of the emergency response team to support State of Florida's vaccination efforts.**

- Supporting DEM and DOH efforts to determine allocation and administration of COVID-19 vaccine. Efforts included:
 - Utilizing AHCA's Emergency Status System reporting to capture real time information regarding vaccine inventory and administration
 - Helping Florida become the first state to begin offering vaccines to staff and residents of over 4,000 long-term care facilities by activating the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program with CVS and Walgreens



3: Preparing for a Vaccine

2. Ensure Medicaid program policy and operation align to ensure coverage of all vaccinations.

- Established broad coverage policy to ensure all recipients have access to vaccinations. Efforts include ensuring:
 - Coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine for all Medicaid recipients who have full Medicaid benefits
 - No co-payments
 - Medicaid vaccine administration fee is equivalent to Medicare vaccine administration fee
 - Medicaid health plans must have open provider networks for vaccine administration

✓

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/13/21
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Vaccination of Home Health Workers

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Bobby Colley

Job Title Executive Director

Address Capital Circle NE 2236 Suite 206

Phone 850-564-1951

Street

City

Tallahassee
City

State

Zip

FL 32309

Email Bcolley@homecarefla.org

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Home Care Association of Florida

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Jan 13th 2021
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Covid Public Policy

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name David M. Serdan

Job Title STATES MAN / Concerned Senior Citizen

Address 66 Wintergreen Dr
Street

Phone 352 805 6597

City Fruitland Park, FL 34731
State Zip

Email golferdave1955@gmail.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Citizens / Children / Elders of Florida

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412
Caption: Senate Health Policy

Case No.: -
Judge:

Type:

Started: 1/13/2021 9:07:44 AM

Ends: 1/13/2021 11:21:52 AM

Length: 02:14:09

9:07:45 AM	Committee on Health Policy called to order by Chair Diaz
9:08:58 AM	Discussion on Florida's COVID-19 mitigation efforts with DOH & AHCA
9:10:11 AM	Deputy Secretary, Dr. Shamari Roberson, Doctor of Public Health
9:26:42 AM	Questions from Senator Jones
9:27:47 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:28:13 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
9:28:36 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:29:08 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
9:29:34 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:29:49 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
9:30:00 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:30:36 AM	Question from Senator Cruz
9:31:01 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:31:34 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:32:07 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:32:25 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:32:55 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:33:10 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:33:14 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:33:26 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:33:32 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:33:44 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:34:17 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:34:24 AM	Follow up from Senator Cruz
9:34:43 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:34:59 AM	Question from Senator Bean
9:35:46 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:36:30 AM	Follow up from Senator Bean
9:37:34 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:37:53 AM	Follow up from Senator Bean
9:38:19 AM	Follow up from Senator Bean
9:38:20 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:38:58 AM	Follow up from Senator Bean
9:39:32 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:39:50 AM	Question from Senator Book
9:40:32 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:40:47 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:41:12 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:41:23 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:41:35 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:41:48 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:42:08 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:42:25 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:42:55 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:43:40 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:44:16 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:44:37 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:45:15 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:46:08 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:46:57 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:47:50 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
9:48:10 AM	Question from Senator Garcia

9:48:30 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:49:08 AM	Follow up from Senator Garcia
9:50:08 AM	Question from Senator Brodeur
9:50:32 AM	Follow up from Dr. Roberson
9:50:43 AM	Follow up from Senator Brodeur
9:50:59 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:51:15 AM	Follow up from Senator Brodeur
9:51:33 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:52:16 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:53:17 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:53:30 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:53:56 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:54:42 AM	Response from Dr. Roberson
9:54:51 AM	Question from Chair Diaz
9:55:17 AM	Questions from Senator Jones
9:55:36 AM	Questions from Senator Farmer
9:56:02 AM	Response from Dr. Scott Rivkees, State Surgeon General
9:56:36 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:57:35 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
9:58:26 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:58:58 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
9:59:12 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
9:59:17 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
9:59:38 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:00:53 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:01:53 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:02:09 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:02:18 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:03:01 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:03:23 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:04:22 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:04:36 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:05:03 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:06:04 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:06:21 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:07:09 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:08:09 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:09:04 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
10:09:38 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:09:49 AM	Question from Senator Jones
10:10:07 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:10:55 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:11:14 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:11:26 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:12:03 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:12:55 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:13:45 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:14:07 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:14:31 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:14:54 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:15:08 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:15:37 AM	Question from Senator Albritton
10:16:30 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:16:59 AM	Follow up from Senator Albritton
10:17:49 AM	Follow up from Senator Albritton
10:17:51 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:18:07 AM	Follow up from Senator Albritton
10:18:42 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:19:28 AM	Question from Senator Book
10:20:08 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:20:33 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:20:51 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees

10:21:11 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:21:21 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:21:56 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:22:24 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:22:53 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:23:10 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:23:32 AM	Question from Senator Bean
10:25:45 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:26:49 AM	Question from Senator Baxley
10:29:40 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:32:41 AM	Follow up from Senator Baxley
10:34:29 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:35:29 AM	Follow up from Senator Baxley
10:36:08 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:37:08 AM	Question from Senator Garcia
10:38:01 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:39:02 AM	Question from Senator Jones
10:39:45 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:40:13 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:40:42 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:40:43 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:41:33 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:41:44 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:41:57 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
10:42:11 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:42:44 AM	Question from Senator Farmer
10:43:28 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:43:49 AM	Question from Senator Book
10:44:15 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:44:27 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:44:36 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:44:43 AM	Question from Senator Albritton
10:45:33 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:46:35 AM	Follow up from Senator Albritton
10:47:27 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:48:44 AM	Question from Senator Book
10:49:45 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:49:58 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:50:16 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:50:41 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:51:12 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:51:46 AM	Follow up from Senator Book
10:51:52 AM	Response from Dr. Rivkees
10:52:31 AM	Presentation from AHCA
10:53:04 AM	Presentation from AHCA
10:53:05 AM	AHCA Secretary Shevaun Harris
10:54:06 AM	AHCA COVID-19 Update
11:05:04 AM	Question from Senator Jones
11:06:05 AM	Response from Shevaun Harris
11:06:29 AM	Follow up from Senator Jones
11:06:50 AM	Response from Shevaun Harris
11:07:05 AM	Question from Senator Farmer
11:07:35 AM	Response from Secretary Harris
11:07:56 AM	Response from Secretary Harris
11:07:57 AM	Follow up from Senator Farmer
11:08:31 AM	Comments from Chair Diaz
11:09:26 AM	Public Testimony
11:09:51 AM	Public Testimony
11:10:02 AM	Bobby Lolley, Home Care Association of Florida
11:16:11 AM	David Sertart
11:17:12 AM	David Sertart
11:18:50 AM	Public Testimony Concludes

11:19:51 AM Comments by Senator Brodeur
11:20:30 AM Comments by Senator Brodeur
11:20:35 AM Comments by Chair Diaz
11:21:43 AM Meeting adjourned by Chair Diaz