



Happy Labor Day Weekend!

I hope you are taking the time to relax and enjoy this long weekend with your family and friends.

While many associate this occasion with the end of summer and an opportunity for parades and picnics, Labor Day is actually a time for us to celebrate the achievements of the American worker. This pandemic has highlighted what a vital force the American worker is to the resiliency of our economy, and the overall well-being of our country.

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#). If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Nursing Homes Reopening to Visitors

This past week, Florida Division of Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz issued an Emergency Order that lifts restrictions for visitations to nursing homes, assisted living facilities (ALFs), adult family-care homes, adult group homes and other long-term care facilities.

As a reminder, Governor DeSantis put forth Emergency Order 20-002 on March 11, 2020 to protect our most vulnerable senior residents during this pandemic. The order has prohibited visitation to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, long-term care facilities and adult group homes.

The new guidelines will allow each nursing home resident to designate two "essential" caregivers, who will be able to assist their loved one with daily living activities such as eating, bathing and grooming. Members of the general public will also be able to visit their loved ones with social distancing requirements.

Per the Emergency Order, to accept general visitors, the facility must meet the following:

- No new facility-onset of resident COVID-19 cases within 14 days other than in a dedicated wing or unit that accepts COVID-19 cases from the community;
- If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the facility must immediately cease all indoor and outdoor visitation in the event that staff person was in the facility in the 10 days prior to the positive test;
- Sufficient staff to support management of visitors;
- Adequate PPE for facility staff;
- Adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies; and
- Adequate capacity at referral hospitals for the facility.

Every facility must continue to prohibit the entry of any individual to the facility except in the following circumstances:

- Family members, friends and individuals visiting residents in end-of-life situations;
- Hospice or palliative care workers caring for residents in end-of-life situations;
- Any individual or providers giving necessary health care to a resident, provided that such individuals or providers comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for PPE, are screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry and comply with all infection control requirements of the CDC and the facility;
- Facility staff and residents;
- Attorneys of Record for a resident in an Adult Mental Health and Treatment Facility or forensic facility for court related matters if virtual or telephonic means are unavailable;
- Public Guardians, Professional Guardians and their professional staff as defined in Florida Statute 744;
- Representatives of the federal or state government seeking entry as part of their official duties;
- Essential caregivers and compassionate care visitors; and
- General visitors under specific criteria set forth under the Emergency Order.

The Order directs all facilities to ensure visitors are not quarantining, positive for COVID-19 or symptomatic. The Order also requires facilities to screen visitors, establish limits on the number of visitors allowed, schedule visitation ahead of time, clean and disinfect visiting areas between visitors and other protective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

General visitors will need to be 18 years of age or older, wear a face mask, sign a consent form indicating they understand the facility's visitation policies, comply with facility-provided COVID-19 testing if offered and maintain social distance of at least six feet with staff and residents.

This order will be implemented in the coming days as long-term care facilities begin to put new procedures in place to comply with the Emergency Order. I am happy that these protective procedures are now in place so that these families can reconnect once again.

Bright Futures Eligibility Deadline Extended

Governor Ron DeSantis has issued Executive Order 20-212, which extends the deadline for students graduating in the 2019-20 school year to earn the minimum qualifying SAT or ACT score to earn a Bright Futures scholarship until December 1, 2020.

This will positively impact thousands of students statewide who either need to earn a qualifying score or wanted to take either the SAT or ACT again to earn a higher score. Conservative estimates after the closure of school campuses in Spring 2020 suggested approximately 32,000 seniors had, excluding their SAT or ACT test score, otherwise met all other Bright Futures requirements. Historical trends show that if given another opportunity to take the SAT or ACT approximately one-quarter (8,000) of those students would qualify for either a 75% or 100% Bright Futures scholarship.

In June, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran issued Emergency Order 2020-EO-05 that extended the deadline to earn a qualifying score to July 31. However, while a few thousand rising college students were able to leverage these June and July opportunities, not all ACT test sites were able to remain open and the College Board (SAT) chose to not offer any testing opportunities. Since that time, test site closures have continued intermittently. Collectively, this created the need to extend the deadline to give a few thousand more Spring 2020 graduates one last opportunity to earn a Bright Futures Scholarship.

Governor DeSantis signed this order with the goal of providing compassion and relief to both Florida's aspiring and current college and university students and their families, many of which are in tremendous need of support with their postsecondary education during this period of economic

recovery. For three consecutive years Florida's postsecondary system has been recognized as the #1 postsecondary system in the country, and it is imperative that it remain affordable for the benefit of our students and Florida's recovery.

Renewal Fees for Florida Alcohol Licenses Extended

Recently, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an Executive Order which extends the deadline for renewal fees for alcohol licenses through December 31, 2020. The order was based on information provided to Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Secretary Halsey Beshears in meetings with bars and brewery owners throughout the state.

As a reminder, DBPR suspended the sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption at all bars throughout the state on June 26, 2020 following a rise in COVID-19 cases. Bars are considered those vendors who derive more than 50% of gross revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Secretary Beshears recently tweeted, "*Governor has extended the renewal fees for alcohol licenses through the end of the year. While they can't be waived yet, this offers some relief till we get the bars open. This came as a result of our meetings...Thanks to all owners from our meetings.*"

District 17 Highlights

FDLE Brevard Donates Confiscated Items to Charities

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) recently completed an investigation into an organized retail crime group that resulted in the seizure of nearly \$500,000 worth of health, beauty and home products. Due to liability reasons, stores could not take the stolen goods back.

With all of the judicial proceedings now concluded, FDLE's Brevard office has donated all of the confiscated items to community charities like Habitat for Humanity, The Daily Bread, Aging Matters in Brevard, The Women's Center of Brevard and Veteran's Transitional Facility. Products such as razor blades, toothbrushes, shoe sole inserts and thermostats will now be made available to those in need.

First Lady of Vero Beach A Finalist for Hall of Fame

The First Lady of Vero Beach, Alma Lee Loy, is among ten finalist being considered for induction into the the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. The Florida Women's Hall of Fame was created by Florida Statute in 1982 to honor women who, through their lives and efforts, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all Florida citizens. They are pioneers who have broken down barriers, created new opportunities, and championed issues to better Florida and its people. These women are immortalized on an honorary wall in the halls of the Florida Capitol.

Three of the finalists will be chosen for induction this year, and Alma Lee Loy is certainly very deserving of this honor as she was both a trailblazer and a dedicated public servant that worked to strengthen our community and our state.



Elected in 1968, she was the first woman to serve on the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners. In service to the state of Florida, she has also served in a number of appointed positions. In the first of her appointments by Florida Governors, Alma Lee was named by Governor Farris in 1964 to serve as an original member of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, and then later named by Governor Burns to the Florida Association of Women's Safety Leaders. She also served on the original board of the Indian River Memorial Hospital, now known as the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, and later was appointed by Governor Crist to serve on the Indian River County Hospital District board.

Among her numerous affiliations, Alma Lee has served as President of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Merchants Association, and the United Way of Indian River County. Alma Lee has worked consistently to expand opportunities for local residents, and her efforts have been recognized in the naming of the Wabasso Beach County Park, the Alma Lee Loy Chamber of Commerce building, and the 17th Street Bridge that spans the Indian River Lagoon.

The late Alma Lee Loy was a great friend, mentor and community leader and while I miss her greatly, her legacy is cemented in our community.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 409-2025

Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)
[Kaitlyn Currey](#)

Tallahassee Office

322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5017

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970
Staff: [Jacob Dimond](#)
