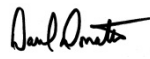




Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

SUBJECT: August Update on COVID-19 pandemic

DATE: August 10, 2020

The Town of Palm Beach continues to monitor, as well as take proactive steps to mitigate, the COVID-19 pandemic in the Town.

As of August 9, 2020, there were a total of 101 positive cases who have listed their address as being within the Town of Palm Beach, an increase of 77.2% (44 cases) since July 10, 2020. There were 37,297 positive cases in Palm Beach County as of August 9, 2020, an increase of 87.9% (17,450 cases) since July 10, 2020. There were 536,961 positive cases in Florida as of August 9, 2020, an increase of 111% (282,450 cases) since July 10, 2020.

As of August 9, 2020, there have been a cumulative total of 936 COVID-19 deaths in Palm Beach County, a 53.2% increase since July 10, 2020. The Town is aware of 4 cases where residents from the Town have died as a result of COVID-19.

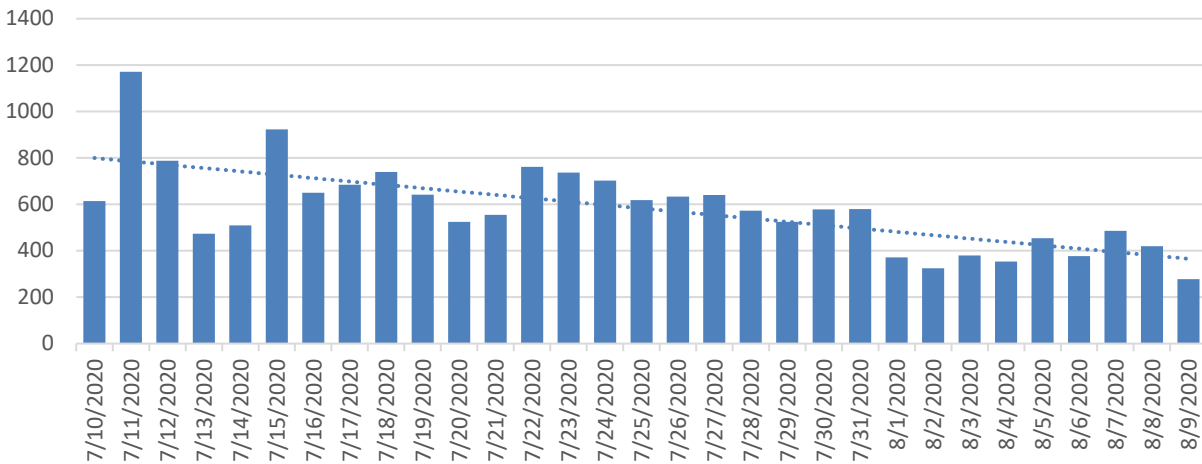
Palm Beach County continues to have the third-highest number of positive cases by county in the State of Florida and the second-highest number of deaths by county in the State. The cumulative death rate for Palm Beach County is 2.5%.

Since the July 12, 2020 report, there has been an improvement in the COVID-19 situation in Palm Beach County, with a downward trend in the number of new cases in Palm Beach County, as well as a downward trend in the daily positivity rate. These are both positive signs, yet Palm Beach County's 7 day average positivity rate is still high at 8.5%. According to Dr. Alina Alonso, Director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, the daily positivity rate needs to be closer to 5% or less before the County can be effective at contact tracing.

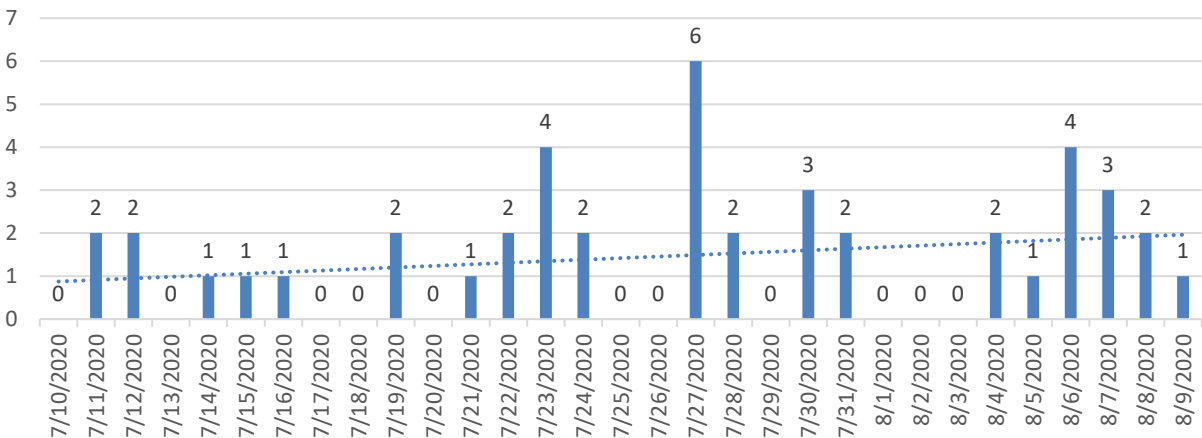
Conversely, the number of new cases in the Town has trended up since July 12, 2020, now averaging 1.4 case per day over the last 30 days, as opposed to .8 cases per day in the 30 days prior to July 10, 2020. While this is not a positive sign, it should be noted that the relatively small numbers of new cases per day tends to make data modeling less predictive.

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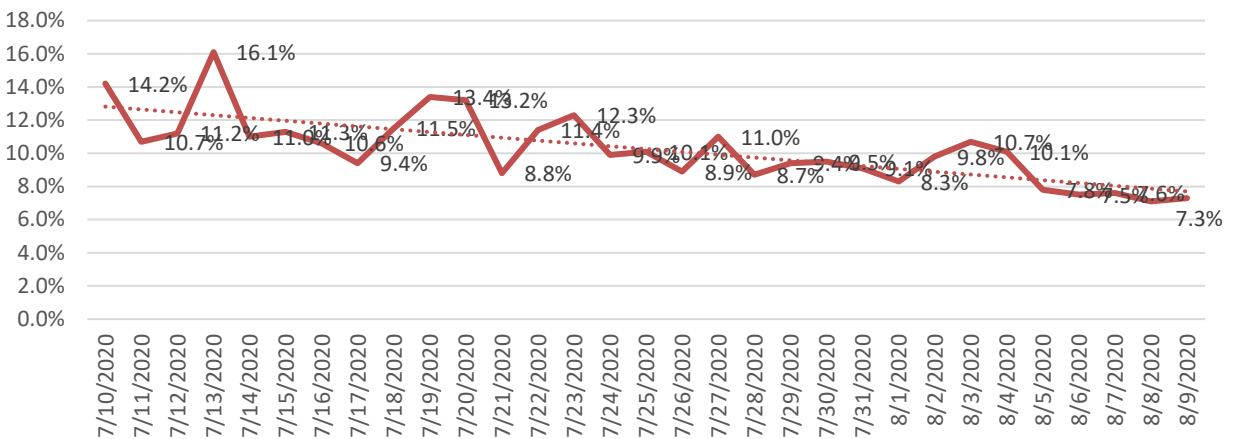
New Cases Per Day in Palm Beach County



New Cases per Day Town of Palm Beach

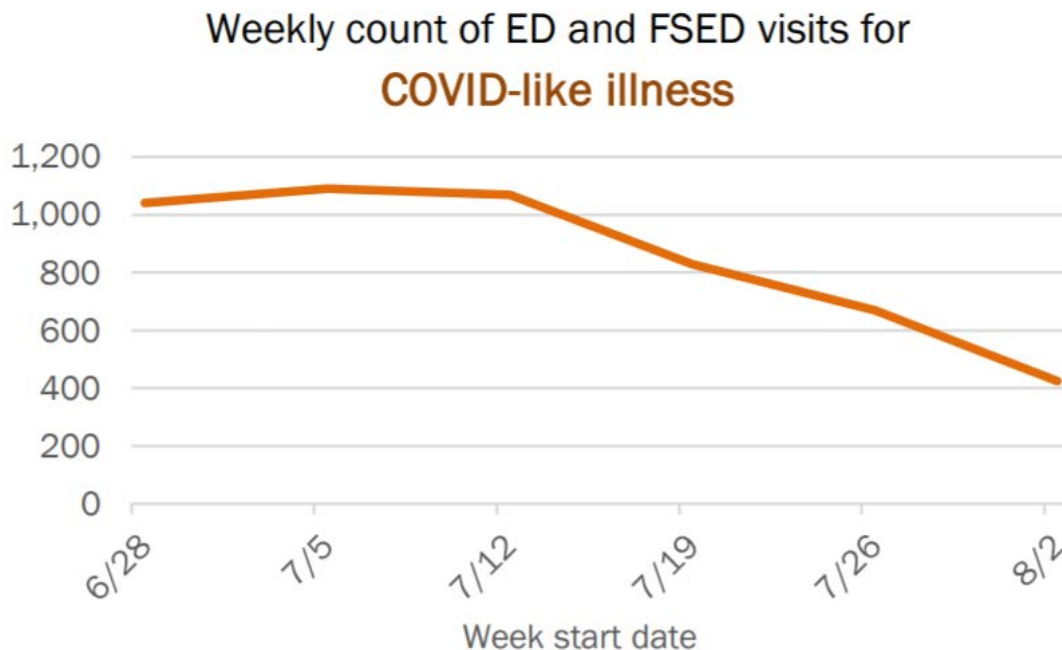


Daily Lab Positivity Rate for Palm Beach County



In July, there was concern that the significant increase in positive cases in Palm Beach County would overwhelm the hospital system. As of August 9, 2020, there have been a cumulative total of 2814 COVID-19 hospitalizations in Palm Beach County, an increase of 757 COVID hospitalization since July 10, 2020.

Since July 12, 2020, we have seen a decrease in the number of patients presenting at the emergency room with COVID-like illnesses and an increase in the number of available acute care hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators in Palm Beach County.



As of August 10, 2020, there were 119 ICU beds available, 178 acute care beds available, and 82 isolation beds available in Palm Beach County. Good Samaritan Medical Center had six acute care beds, three ICU beds, and seven isolation beds available on 8/10/2020. JFK Medical Center had 27 acute care beds, 26 ICU beds, and four isolation beds available on 8/10/2020. And, St. Mary's Medical Center had four acute care beds, seven adult ICU beds, four pediatric ICU beds, and 28 isolation beds available on 8/10/2020.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) COVID-19 projections for the State of Florida (<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/florida>) is now projecting that the number of all hospital beds and ICU beds will not be exceeded due to the COVID-19 pandemic if current measures remain in place.

The basic means of preventing transmission of the coronavirus remain the same and include wearing a proper facemask, washing your hands frequently, maintaining social distance, avoiding large gatherings, especially large indoor gatherings.

Studies support the projection that as many as 40% of people infected with COVID-19 may have no symptoms. When they talk, cough or sneeze, they can spread the virus to others in the form of respiratory droplets expelled into the air. Those droplets evaporate into fine particles that may

linger. These asymptomatic carriers and spreaders present a risk to others and emphasize the importance of wearing a face covering. Face coverings trap these larger droplets before they can evaporate. Thus, wearing a face-covering regularly can prevent spreading at the source even from people who do not realize they have the virus or are sick.

The Town has been very proactive in its effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Current educational efforts, restrictions on gatherings, and the support of face-covering usage should continue.