

# MARTIN TOGETHER

## PLANNING FOR OUR RECOVERY



COVID-19 Release #33

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Contact: Martha Ann Kneiss, Administration 772-214-2790

## **Martin County works with legislative delegation to correct COVID-19 data reporting**

After notification about a technical issue with COVID-19 data reported by the Florida Department of Health, Martin County is changing the way they share that information. Martin County has been sharing that data through a daily report and linking to it through the Martin County COVID-19 Dashboard. "We have been notified by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), of a backlog of negative test results that have been entered into the system. This means that some of the current negative test results returned from private facilities are not being displayed on the FDOH COVID-19 dashboard, which can impact the overall positivity rate for the county," said Taryn Kryzda, Martin County Administrator.

Martin County worked with their legislative delegation – Senator Gayle Harrell, Representative MaryLynn Magar and Representative Toby Overdorf – to address the situation. Their collective efforts quickly moved this issue to the forefront. Today, FDOH is working diligently to correct the issue and working toward a comprehensive solution to ensure this backlog does not occur again.

Senator Gayle Harrell stated, "Testing for COVID 19 is one of the most important tools we have to stop this pandemic and I am very pleased that we have significantly increased the amount of testing we are doing in Martin County and across the state of Florida. The time for processing tests varies greatly with the type of test used and the processing laboratory capacity. Accurate and timely reporting of these test results is extremely important but can be very complicated given the different types of tests and specific technology used for processing the tests by various labs.

I have been in direct communication with Surgeon General Rivkees concerning the recent delay and backlog in reporting the results of a specific type of test in Martin County. The reporting mechanism used by Abbott Laboratory does not interface directly with the DOH MERLIN system. Dr. Rivkees and the Dept. of Health are working diligently to resolve this problem. He has assured me that all backlogged test results will be updated into the state dashboard within the next 24 hours even if they have to be entered manually by the Dept. of Health.

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**Page 2, COVID-19 data reporting**

I would like to encourage anyone who is concerned that they have been exposed to COVID 19 to get tested as soon as possible and practice social distancing and self-quarantine until they receive the results.”

Representative Toby Overdorf reached out to state contacts to work toward a resolution. “After coordinating with Martin County and State DOH partners, I am thrilled the issue is being addressed in a timely manner so that we can have accurate reporting of the testing within Martin County,” said Overdorf.

In order to present the most accurate data, Martin County has chosen to discontinue creating a daily report and will no longer share a county-specific dashboard. Each day the county will only provide the FDOH County Report and FDOH Dashboard.

Adding her support to ensuring the integrity of the data, Representative MaryLynn Magar said, “The data we collect is very important to the safety of our communities, especially as we increase testing. I am glad this issue is being resolved quickly as the Department of Health consistently works to improve the accuracy of the data for the state of Florida.”

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MAK/ADM



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2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FL 34996  
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