

State Representative
**FENTRICE
DRISKELL**



Proudly Serving Florida State House District 63

Carrollwood, Lake Magdalene, Lutz,
New Tampa, Pebble Creak, and University Area

COVID-19 Newsletter



We are living in unprecedented times. Please know that my office is here to help you in any way that we can as well all try to get through this together.

Given the recent alarming numbers regarding COVID-19, we wanted to provide you with a brief update on some news from the past week. We are working around the clock to make sure our neighbors have resources to navigate these challenges.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance. Again, we are here to help in any way that we can.

Yours in service,

Rep. Fentrice Driskell

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Fentrice D. Driskell'.

Upcoming Events:

Virtual Office Hours:

On July 23, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. I will be hosting a virtual office hours session. Please join our office hours with any questions or concerns you may have.

Please complete the following form by clicking [here](#) to reserve a spot. Please email my District Secretary at lucile.malone@myfloridahouse.gov if you have any questions.

COVID-19 Updates

Local order for wearing masks:

To further protect the public, against the spread of COVID-19, Hillsborough County's Emergency Policy Group enacted an order requiring that face coverings be worn inside businesses that are open to the public, with certain exceptions. City of Tampa Mayor Jane Castor has also issued an executive order requiring face masks in public with certain exceptions.

If you are in need of a face covering, Hillsborough County is distributing *free* face cloth coverings at four locations:

1. E.G. Simmons Park, 2401 19th Ave. NW in Ruskin
2. Upper Tampa Bay Park, 8001 Double Branch Road in Tampa
3. Lake Park, 17302 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Lutz
4. Lithia Springs Park, 3932 Lithia Springs Road in Lithia

Select Hillsborough County Public Libraries are also distributing *free* face cloth coverings from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

These sites are open until supplies last. Please make the responsible decision to wear your mask when appropriate to further prevent the spread of the Coronavirus in our community.

Total Cases:

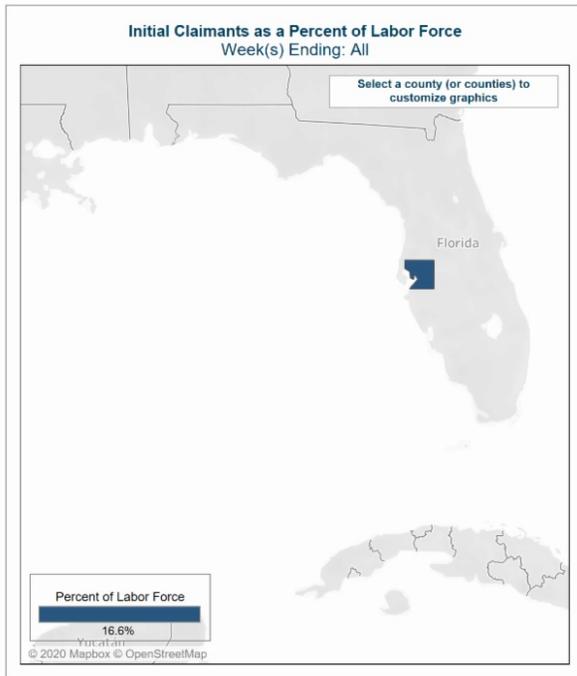
As of July 14, 2020 there are a total of 20,508 cases in Hillsborough County. Florida has a total of 291, 629 cases. The numbers are increasing at an alarmingly exponential rate.

Please refer to the Florida Department of Health's website, <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/> for daily updates on coronavirus cases in Florida.

DEO Updates

Unemployment Claims:

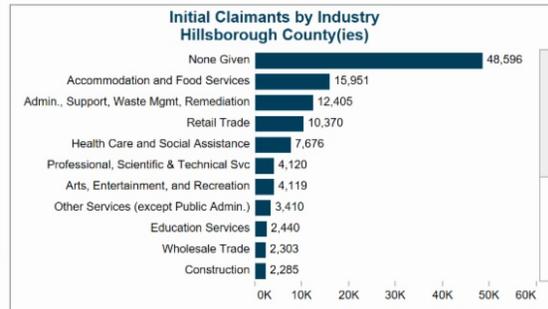
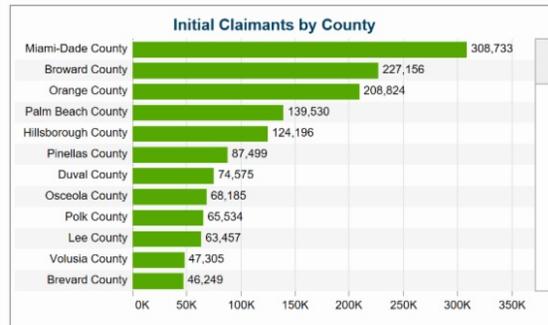
COVID-19 Related Reemployment Assistance Claimants by County



Note: Initial claimant counts on this dashboard represent preliminary estimates of intrastate Reemployment Assistance applications for the week they were submitted. These estimates are subject to revision. Additionally, all claimant data are screened for confidentiality to protect the identity of Florida citizens and businesses. This may include individuals claiming Reemployment Assistance for reasons other than COVID-19 related closures.

COVID-19 Related Initial Claimants Hillsborough County(ies)

124,196



If you are having trouble with the DEO, my office is here to help. Please fill out the following Constituent Request Form by clicking [here](#) and completing the form with the appropriate information.

In the case of an urgent unemployment or other constituent request, please also email my Legislative Assistant Raven Sansbury at raven.sansbury@myfloridahouse.gov

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation:

Please note that at the start of each new calendar quarter you must apply for a new claim to review your eligibility for regular reemployment assistance.

Quarters: January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1.

Starting Monday, July 6, the request to modify the date of your claim must be made by calling the Reemployment Assistance Customer Service center at 1-833-FL-APPLY (1-833-352-7759 and choose option 5). You may be eligible to modify the date of your claim to the date you originally attempted to apply for Reemployment Assistance only if you were unable to file a claim between the weeks of March 9, 2020 to April 9, 2020.

The Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program is now available. This program, offered through the federal CARES Act and administered by DEO, provides up to 13 weeks of benefits to a claimant who has exhausted their Reemployment Assistance benefits.

Floridians will need to apply for PEUC benefits once the balance of their current claim is exhausted. Floridians who have already exhausted their benefits or have a Reemployment Assistance claim that expired after July 1, 2019, will also be able to apply.

Click here for PEUC Application Process.
Click here for PEUC Frequently Asked Questions.
Click [here](#) for COVID-19 Employment Scenarios

Rent and Mortgage Relief:

Moratorium on Evictions:

My office pushed for an extension on the moratorium on evictions. You can read about our efforts [here](#). We are glad to announce that on June 30, 2020, Governor DeSantis extended the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures until August 1, 2020.

Hillsborough County CARES Fund:

Governor DeSantis has allocated money to counties to assist people struggling to pay their rent or mortgage through the CARES Act. Hillsborough County has exhausted the money allocated to them through this act. However, on June 25, 2020, Governor DeSantis allocated an additional \$250 million to rent and mortgage relief under the CARES Act. Updates on when applications will resume are available through this link.

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/r3-program>

For further assistance, please refer to this link from Hillsborough County that provides information on local resources for assistance such as food assistance.

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/public-safety/emergency-management/stay-safe/getting-help>

Small Business Relief:

The City of Tampa plans to spend another \$1.2 million to help small businesses that previously didn't qualify for aid. While businesses must be located in the City of Tampa city limits, the previously required geographic zone parameters for Phase I & II are not applicable in Phase III. Phase III will start with businesses that were disqualified during Phase I or II but still in need of financial assistance. \$2,000 checks will be delivered directly to "[critically-impacted](#)" businesses to help them aid in business expenses. Critically Impacted businesses are businesses that had to close or experience a significant reduction in revenue over the past few months due to COVID-19.

Business owners are encouraged to review the grant details and set up a username and password in the grant portal here: <https://r3.hcflgov.net/>

The County is offering several virtual information sessions about the different financial assistance programs:

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/public-safety/rapid-response-recovery-assistance-program-r3/rapid-response-recovery-program-r3-economic-recovery-grants-program>

Community Development:

Habitat for Humanity Hillsborough Homes:

On Tuesday, June 30, 2020 we celebrated and welcomed ten families to their new homes in the University area built by Habitat for Humanity. We are glad to have these new neighbors in District 63!



* Representative Driskell welcomed the Broom Family to their new home.



"Home means a peaceful, comfortable and safe place to live."

When you have worked hard since a very young age, managed the curve balls that life tosses you, and have done everything possible just to stand strong as you do all that, accomplishments, even the smallest ones, are a big deal. Single mom Dina Broom counts her efforts to be self-reliant and strong as she raised son James and daughter Jamesha an achievement in itself. So it's no wonder she sees becoming a homeowner as an especially meaningful accomplishment.

"Owning our own home will impact us greatly," said Dina, who works hard to stretch her modest income as a customer service associate. "We will no longer have to worry about the negative things that come with renting. Before this opportunity, our biggest challenge has been our unaffordable rent. Habitat's zero interest mortgage will greatly help us. It will help us meet our monthly bills more comfortably. It means a more peaceful, comfortable and safe place to live. And being a homeowner will also make me feel greatly accomplished."

The Broom Family

every family
needs a foundation for the future.



She is proud that her son, James, will be joining her in co-owning the home. "At 19, being a homeowner will help jumpstart a lot of things in his life," said Dina.

In addition to owning the home with her son, she is grateful to have a positive environment to raise her two-year-old granddaughter, Aniyah. Dina herself was raised by her grandmother. As a kid, she and her four siblings grew up with tough challenges. "We didn't have much," said Dina. "We began working to help out and learned about life at an early age. I tried to go to college, but I fell into some challenges that instead led me to serving in the U.S. Army."

Dina and James are excited about becoming homeowners and the stability it will bring to their lives. And to the volunteers and home sponsor who helped them with a hand up to attain this important accomplishment, they are forever grateful.

BUILD PARTNER
CARLTON HELDS

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY • 909 E. Jackson St., Tampa, FL 33602 • HabitatHillsborough.org

Legislative Updates:

We are happy to inform you that two of the bills we filed last session were signed into law.



HB 253 - Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams signed into law

- ✔ Provides additional accountability for our most vulnerable.
- ✔ Helps close gaps in services, law, and policy to prevent/reduce elder deaths by abuse or neglect.
- ✔ Cross-sector and community-wide approach to support our seniors.



HB 505 - Decedents' Property signed into law

- ✔ Simplifies Trust & Estate Law to ease burden of handling the loss of loved ones.
- ✔ Amends existing code to protect the possessions of the recently deceased and their heirs.



News:

Juneteenth:

Juneteenth celebrates the day when all slaves in America were granted their

freedom, some two years after the official end of the Civil War. Juneteenth is a Day of Observance in Florida, not a Legal Holiday. My legislative office closed in honor of Juneteenth this year, and I am committed to fighting to elevate its status to that of a Legal Holiday in Florida.

Racial and Social Justice:

The world recently witnessed the horrific murder of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died at the hands of police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Floyd's death shed a light on systemic racism, sparked worldwide protests, and left many people wondering, "where do we go from here?" My office has always been committed to advocating for equality and justice for all Floridians and has continued to do so by advocating for change at the local level through meetings with Mayor Jane Castor and the Tampa Police Department. We also are working to develop legislative reforms that can be introduced next session. You can hear me address some of those topics during a recent panel discussion by clicking [here](#). The discussion starts at around the 2 minute and 30 second mark.

IMPORTANT CORONAVIRUS CONTACTS

Please make sure to visit [FloridaHealth.gov/COVID19](https://www.floridahealth.gov/COVID19) for up to date information, including daily case numbers in the state of Florida and tips to stay healthy.

Follow [@HealthyFla](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for alerts. The Florida Department of Health has established a COVID-19 Call Center available 24/7. The phone number is 1-866-779-6121 and the email is COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

The World Health Organization offers a Q&A on COVID-19 that explains a wide range of relevant information: www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses

The Center for Disease Control is regularly updating its website with the latest data and research on the coronavirus: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

The Florida Department of Education is providing updates on childcare programs and K-12 schools to plan, prepare, and respond to the coronavirus: www.fldoe.org/em-response/

Florida Attorney General Price Gouging Hotline - (866) 966-7226
Webpage:
<http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/0/308348F71208C29085256EED00604673?OpenDocument>

The Florida Department Of Health in Hillsborough can be reached at (813) 307-8000 and has a wealth of resources and information on the coronavirus on its webpage:
<http://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/index.html>

Feeling in despair or suicidal? Call 211 or the National Suicide Hotline at
1-800-273-8255

To report an emergency - 911

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