



# City of Port St. Lucie

*"A City for All Ages"*

Via email & US Mail

## City Council

**Gregory J. Oravec**  
Mayor

**Stephanie Morgan**  
District 1

**John Carvelli**  
District 2

**Shannon Martin**  
District 3

**Jolien Caraballo**  
District 4

April 6, 2020

Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the City of Port St. Lucie, I would like to congratulate you and the First Lady on the birth of your daughter, Mamie. I would also like to thank you, your family and your administration for your tireless efforts in the fight against COVID-19. We appreciate everything that you and your administration are doing for the people of Florida and the City of Port St. Lucie.

Please know that we are doing as much as we can here locally to support the state's response to COVID-19 in the hopes that these actions will slow the spread, reduce hospitalizations, save lives and allow us to win this fight sooner. With these hopes in mind, this letter serves to share the following observations from the frontlines in Port St. Lucie and to respectfully make some corresponding requests.

Testing. Situation: Based upon the FLDOH Dashboard, St. Lucie County is in the bottom half of its peer group for per capita testing, while having a higher hospitalization and mortality rate. We appreciated your statement last week that testing resources should flood into Palm Beach County. They are also in the bottom half of the peer group, have an even higher mortality rate than St. Lucie County, and are a special cause of concern because we are very interconnected, as set forth by the attached excerpt from DEO's report on commuting patterns. Tens of thousands of people normally commute between St. Lucie County and South Florida every day. Even though the volume has decreased in response to the Safer At Home Order, many essential services continue to operate and the corresponding employees continue to commute.

From a citizen standpoint, the testing criteria are still too restrictive. Symptomatic people are frustrated that they can't get tested. Test results for those fortunate enough to be tested take too long. Some of our citizens are waiting two weeks or more for the results. We have at least one hospital provider with Abbott testing equipment that has been un- or under- utilized because the test kits are too scarce.

*Request. Please continue working towards the epidemiological standard of testing all symptomatic people, isolating confirmed cases in a timely fashion and following up with contact tracing.*

*In the interim, please increase the testing effort and facilitate faster reporting of results, providing St. Lucie County testing providers with a proportionate share of test kits for as long as a shortage of testing supplies exists.*

Re-employment. Situation: Many residents understand that DEO is facing the highest ever demand for reemployment assistance and appreciated your comments at this morning's round table meeting; but, they are still scared because they are out, or running out, of money with no prospects in the immediate future.

*Request: Please help Florida's residents by making the payment of reemployment benefits retroactive to the date of COVID-related unemployment, not the date of the completed application or the Sunday prior to the date of the completed application. This is an easy way to maximize aid to those who need it.*

Safer At Home. Situation: Many of us were pleased that you unified Florida's greater social distancing effort under Order 20-91. Unfortunately, our City Attorney and many others read Executive Orders 20-91 and 20-92 differently than you explained it at the press conference of April 2. May local communities impose a 25% occupancy rule and CDC guidance to the extent practicable for Essential Services and Essential Activities?

*Request: Please consider amending an existing order or issuing a new order to clarify what local communities may do on top of Order 20-91. Alternatively, and perhaps to even greater effect, please consider adding the 25% occupancy rule and/or other prudent measures to your Safer At Home Order.*

Recovery. Situation. We are in the midst of an all-out response to COVID-19; and as part of this response, we must also think about how we can keep our economy afloat and then restart it in earnest as part of the recovery that follows. We very much appreciate how you and the President have already identified how infrastructure could play a role in the response and especially the recovery.

*Request: Please consider giving counties and cities of a certain size a seat at the table on future discussions of stimulus investments, especially those relating to infrastructure.*

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 772-342-6072.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Oravec  
Mayor

c: Vice Mayor & City Council  
City Manager, City Attorney & PSL Emergency Response Team  
Chairman Townsend, SLC County Commission & SLC Emergency Response Team  
St. Lucie County State Legislative Delegation

COVID-19 TESTS  
 25 Most Populous Counties + Martin County  
 As set forth by FDOH Dashboard  
 As of April 6, 2020, 1:30 P.M.

Rank	Name	2020 Population	Tests	Tests/Capita	Cases	Hospitalizations	Hospital./Case	Deaths	Deaths/Case	Deaths per 100,000
1	St. Johns County	254,261	2,312	0.0091	146	26	0.18	2	0.014	0.79
2	Miami-Dade County	2,761,581	24,377	0.0088	4,481	252	0.06	38	0.008	1.38
3	Broward County	1,951,260	16,950	0.0087	2,067	241	0.12	46	0.022	2.36
4	Alachua County	269,956	2,340	0.0087	131	16	0.12	0	-	-
5	Duval County	950,181	7,274	0.0077	475	45	0.09	9	0.019	0.95
6	Pinellas County	975,280	6,529	0.0067	362	62	0.17	8	0.022	0.82
7	Escambia County	315,534	2,007	0.0064	136	9	0.07	1	0.007	0.32
8	Collier County	378,488	2,281	0.0060	246	31	0.13	2	0.008	0.53
9	Hillsborough County	1,436,888	8,586	0.0060	571	86	0.15	5	0.009	0.35
10	Orange County	1,380,645	7,815	0.0057	744	89	0.12	8	0.011	0.58
11	Lake County	356,495	2,003	0.0056	104	25	0.24	2	0.019	0.56
12	Lee County	754,610	3,974	0.0053	397	74	0.19	12	0.030	1.59
13	Clay County	216,072	1,087	0.0050	81	21	0.26	6	0.074	2.78
14	Martin	160,912	791	0.0049	83	13	0.16	0	-	-
15	Osceola County	367,990	1,728	0.0047	239	60	0.25	4	0.017	1.09
16	Seminole County	467,832	2,176	0.0047	194	43	0.22	1	0.005	0.21
17	Pasco County	539,630	2,398	0.0044	110	22	0.20	2	0.018	0.37
18	Leon County	292,502	1,185	0.0041	59	11	0.19	0	-	-
19	Palm Beach County	1,485,941	5,967	0.0040	1,069	163	0.15	49	0.046	3.30
20	St. Lucie County	321,128	1,249	0.0039	100	28	0.28	4	0.040	1.25
21	Polk County	708,009	2,612	0.0037	176	85	0.48	4	0.023	0.56
22	Marion County	359,977	1,239	0.0034	53	6	0.11	2	0.038	0.56
23	Sarasota County	426,718	1,367	0.0032	151	50	0.33	7	0.046	1.64
24	Volusia County	547,538	1,550	0.0028	151	35	0.23	2	0.013	0.37
25	Manatee County	394,855	972	0.0025	144	31	0.22	3	0.021	0.76
26	Brevard County	596,849	1,400	0.0023	88	23	0.26	0	-	-



Excerpt from “Summary of Employment, Demographics, and Commuting Patterns for St. Lucie County

January 2018

## Executive Summary

The analysis of workforce and demographic characteristics, including commuting patterns of St. Lucie County was conducted to provide economic data on the population and labor force living or working in the county. The report is useful for detailing where workers work and live in order to align resources. This report includes population, labor force, and demographics for St. Lucie County.

Workers employed in St. Lucie County are clustered in the Health Care and Social Assistance (14.8%), and Retail Trade (13.2%) industries. Workers living in St. Lucie County are concentrated in the Health Care and Social Assistance (16.3%), and Retail Trade (14.1%) industries.

A detailed examination of commuting patterns for St. Lucie County shows that the county has a net flow of -33,260 workers. Using the latest annual Census data available, there were 67,110 workers employed in St. Lucie County and 100,370 workers living in St. Lucie County. **Of the workers who lived in the county, 60,142 workers (59.9%) were employed outside the county.**

With 59.9% of workers who reside in St. Lucie County employed outside the county, St. Lucie County had the 33<sup>rd</sup> highest outflow among Florida counties. Glades County (85.3%) had the highest outflow rate, followed by Gilchrist County (79.7%), and Jefferson County (79.7%). Leon County (18.6%), Miami-Dade County (20.7%), and Duval County (24.9%) had the lowest worker outflow rates.

**Of the 60,142 St. Lucie County workers employed outside the county, the top destination counties are Martin County (17,264 workers), Palm Beach County (12,531 workers), and Indian River County (5,371 workers). Of the 26,882 St. Lucie County workers living outside the county, the top origin counties are Martin County (4,897 workers), Indian River County (4,261 workers), and Palm Beach County (3,375 workers).**

## Where Workers Live Who are Employed in St. Lucie County

	Count	Share
<b>Total Primary Jobs</b>	67,110	100.0%
<b>Job Counts by Counties Where Workers Live - Primary Jobs</b>		
St. Lucie County, FL	40,228	59.9%
Martin County, FL	4,897	7.3%
Indian River County, FL	4,261	6.3%
Palm Beach County, FL	3,375	5.0%
Broward County, FL	1,717	2.6%
Miami-Dade County, FL	1,478	2.2%