



MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Healthcare workers collect samples at a COVID-19 testing site at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium in Miami.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Weekly nursing home testing planned to open doors to visitors

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — The Trump administration has announced plans to require certain nursing homes to test staff "and visitors" for COVID-19 once a week and opened the door to again allowing visitation at the homes.

Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma said Wednesday night that the administration wants to require nursing homes in states with a minimum 5% COVID-19 positivity rate to test nursing home staff and visitors once a week.

"In terms of visitors, you'll see this coming up, what we're going to say is, 'We want to make sure there is no COVID inside a nursing home,'" Verma said in a phone call with the news media. "And once we

see that for two weeks, our recommendation will be to permit visitation and to require testing."

To accomplish that goal, the Trump administration will send rapid point-of-care diagnostic devices and associated tests to nursing homes.

The weekly testing mandate will require rules before it can be implemented. Verma refused to comment on the timeline for the rule other than to say that "it's forthcoming."

The administration also announced an additional \$5 billion in "provider relief funds" to nursing homes that participate in Medicare and Medicaid.

Florida Health Care Association Executive Director Emmett Reed lauded the additional funding, saying in a prepared statement that the "support will go a long way in meeting the

needs of our members, who we know will be in this battle for months to come."

Verma also said the federal government sent strike teams to 18 nursing homes in six states — including Florida — between Saturday and Monday. The teams worked with the 18 nursing homes, offering testing and infection-control guidelines.

The two-day deployment was a first, she said, adding that the administration will continue to send the teams to nursing homes with serious infection-control deficiencies and increases in COVID-19 cases.

In addition to Florida, strike teams visited nursing homes in Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"Testing and sound infection-control practices are more critical than ever," Verma said.

SAFETY

Volunteers needed by Red Cross for coronavirus hurricane season

By MARY LOU CRUZ

Experts expect a busy hurricane season and the American Red Cross needs your help.

About 90% of disaster relief efforts and humanitarian work during a crisis is done by volunteers. There are opportunities for all skill levels, from entry-level workers to trained professionals.

And this year especially, health-care, medical and support staff are needed more than ever.

"The coronavirus pandemic will make it challenging to deploy trained disaster volunteers from other parts of the country should an emergency occur. In light of this, the Red Cross is asking you to be ready to help your community," said Grace Meinhof, regional director of communications and marketing for the South Florida Red Cross.

"Train now to be a Red Cross volunteer and answer the call to help if the need

arises here in our region."

Shelter help needed: To provide support staff reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information collection and other vital tasks. Associate and supervisory level opportunities available.

Health services support needed: Daily observation and health screening for COVID-19-like illness among shelter residents may be required. RNs will supervise all clinical tasks. Roles are also available for Certified Nursing Assistants and Certified Home Health Aides. Student nurses and medical students are encouraged to apply. Volunteers will provide care as delegated by a licensed nurse in shelters.

Pets need help too: When people leave their homes during an emergency, they take their pets with them. The Red Cross is looking for established organizations to partner and help

support the pet sheltering effort.

If you are interested in helping your community should a disaster occur, see redcross.org/SFLVolunteer or contact a local chapter office at redcross.org/SouthFlorida for a complete list of volunteer opportunities, internships and leadership programs.

Centers for Disease Control guidelines will be followed. Below is a partial list of additional types of positions needed. Some volunteer tasks can be done virtually, if you are unable to assist in person. Sign up now to get trained for:

- Disaster health services worker
 - Shelter service worker
 - Public affairs team
 - Marketing volunteer
 - Community volunteer
 - Local social engagement (virtual)
 - Communications editor
 - Code4Good web services
 - Youth volunteer
- Full information is available at redcross.org/volunteer.

Hanna downgraded; tropical wave organizing in mid-Atlantic

By ROBIN WEBB, STEVE SVERKIS, BROOKE BAITINGER AND AUSTEN ERBLAT

An organizing tropical wave moving westward in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean has a 90% chance of developing into a tropical storm or tropical depression over the next five days.

It's too early to tell if the wave will affect South Florida. For this week, the weather forecast calls for heavy thunderstorms in South Florida, according to the National Weather Service. Temperatures will range from a low of about 78 degrees to highs of about 90.

The tropical wave was just more than 1,000 miles west-southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands and producing a large area of cloudiness and disorganized showers and thunderstorms. Environmental conditions appear to be conducive for development, and a tropical depression is likely to form early this week while the wave continues moving west at about 20 mph across the tropical Atlantic.

The NHC gave the system a 70% chance of formation in the next 48 hours, and 90% chance of



JENNIFER REYNOLDS/AP

Lifeguard Matthew Herdrich walks along the rocks at 39th Street in Galveston, Texas.

it occurring in the next five days.

It is the latest focal point of an already-busy hurricane season that has produced eight named storms. The next named storm will be Isaias.

What was Tropical Storm Hanna dissipated into a tropical depression over Mexico, according to the 5 p.m. Sunday public advisory from the National Hurricane Center. It was moving at about 9 mph an hour and was about 35 miles west of Monterrey, Mexico.

Hanna made landfall on Padre Island, Texas, at 6 p.m. Saturday, as a strong Category 1 hurricane.

There have been four tropical storms so far this month: Edouard, Fay, Gonzalo and Hanna. Other named storms this year

have included Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal and Dolly. Tropical Storm Arthur formed in mid-May, making this the sixth straight year that a named storm formed before the official start of hurricane season on June 1.

Virtually all estimates for this hurricane season predict an above-average number of storms, due to unusually warm ocean temperatures and global climate factors that are likely to reduce the high-altitude winds that can prevent the formation of hurricanes.

On July 8, Colorado State University issued a slightly more pessimistic outlook for hurricane season than its earlier forecast, upping the number of named storms from 19 to 20.

Ask Lois: Questions about virus, schools

Your queries about education in South Florida welcome

By LOIS K. SOLOMON

We're facing so many uncertainties about schools reopening, at-home learning, and the quality and future of education.

Parents have questions about day-to-day challenges as well as long-

term concerns about how students will remain interested in learning and socially connected.

The Sun Sentinel welcomes your queries about education in South Florida in the age of COVID-19.

Do you have questions concerning your special needs child? About extracurricular clubs and sports? Or how will colleges handle all this confusion? Are you a teacher

who wants to learn about your options?

To submit your question related to schools in South Florida, email Sun Sentinel reporter Lois Solomon at solomon@sun-sentinel.com. She will do the research and find the answer. She may contact you with additional questions.

Let us know what you need to know as you make decisions about your children's future.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PUBLIC NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) STRATEGY 2 2020-2021

The City of Fort Lauderdale has received Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) from Florida Housing Finance Corporation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Funds will be used to provide residential rental and mortgage assistance for eligible households that reside in the city limits of Fort Lauderdale.

The total award is **\$727, 500.00** and will be used as follows:

Rental/Utility assistance: \$250,000.00

Mortgage/Utility assistance and project delivery fees: \$404,750
Program Administration: \$72, 750

All assisted households must be at or below 120% of the area median income.

The period of performance begins on March 1, 2020 and ends December 2020.

The program will be administered by a third-party vendor whose name will be published on the City's website once the vendor has been selected.

The Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) Strategy 2 requires public notice be published for 10 days before the beginning of the application period. The ten-days will commence Monday, July 27th and end on August 7, 2020.

For question or comments, you may contact:

Avis Wilkinson
SHIP Administrator
Housing and Community Development Division
Phone: 954-828-4513
Email: awilkinson@fortlauderdale.gov

Informacion disponible en espanol telefono 954-828-4530.
Pou plis kesyon ki nan Kreyol, tanpri rele 954-828-4530.

The programs offered through Housing and Community Development Division or its sub-recipients do not discriminate based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, familial status, or disability.



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