

**GUESTS:**

Dr. David Nelson: Senior VP UF Health

Dr. Glenn Morris: Director of the Emerging Pathogen Institute. Physician/Epidemiologist Infectious Diseases. Director for Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (SCCAHS).

Dr. John Lednicky: Research Professor, University of Florida

Dr. Ira Longini: Professor of Biostatistics, University of Florida

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM PANELISTS**

**Dr. Ira Longini**

**If we continue what we are doing, could we wait this virus out through mid-August, or is it just going to come back at a slower pace?**

The virus will not go away but we could help keep it at a slower level.

**What is the suggestion for opening a county without the contact tracing or testing? Masks, social distance, is there any way to open society without testing and contact tracing?**

I don't think so, it helps tell us where the epidemic is. I can't imagine a situation where one county tested, and one county didn't.

**Who does contact tracing?**

Contact tracers are people who are trained by the State or CDC and go out to where the confirmed cases are and identify their close contacts. Ask these contacts to self-quarantine for 14 days.

**Dr. John Lednicky**

**Do the germs live in air conditioners, HVACS and/or planes?**

Hospital systems have very good HVAC systems. The air in airplanes gets recirculated, my opinion is yes.

**If people with masks cough and sneeze, will they produce these large airfields?**

Masking would be helpful to help prevent the spread of the droplets.

**Dr. Glenn Morris**

**Can we reopen based on our current ability to test across the state?**

My personal/scientific opinion: I do not think the state has the capacity for testing at this moment to safely reopen. Without testing we are flying blind.

**If I am a small business with less than 50 people, what kind of testing am I doing?**

These are difficult questions because of availability of testing. In a perfect world, we would test all employees before they come back. There will come a time when we have more confidence in the antibody testing, and it may be useful in identifying patients who have had the virus and possess antibodies.

**Would everyone on this panel agree that masking in the community is a simple thing to do that helps limit the spread?**

I think it provides some help, there needs to be an awareness that surgical masks and homemade masks will not stop all particles. They will help prevent the spread of the virus. There is data to suggest that it will reduce the spread of the virus by somewhere in the range of 50-60%. In studies that may not be the best, but it is an intermediate step that may have value.