

# Chronology of COVID-19 and Healthcare

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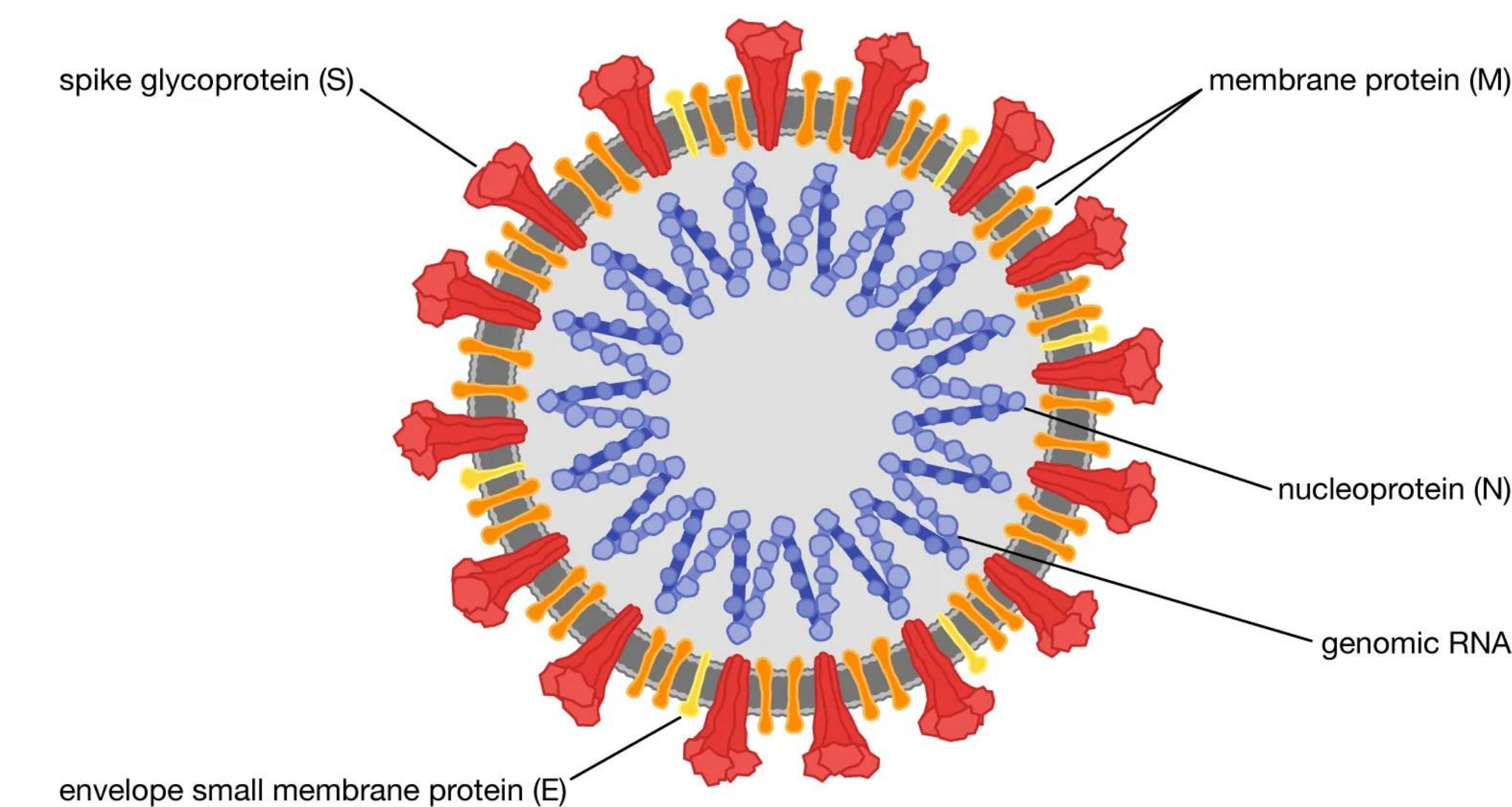
## Background Information:

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) produced an unprecedented global public health crisis that required rapid responses from governments, healthcare systems, and policy makers. In the United States, both federal and state governments implemented policies aimed at reducing transmission, managing healthcare capacity, and protecting essential workers. Because many pandemic responses were implemented quickly and across multiple levels of government, the resulting policy landscape became highly complex and difficult to interpret chronologically.

In particular, Florida implemented numerous state-level policies that interacted with federal guidance while simultaneously affecting healthcare systems and frontline workers. Existing literature has documented aspects of pandemic policy responses and healthcare workforce experiences, but these findings are often dispersed across government documents, scholarly articles, and news reports. As a result, there is limited synthesis that clearly organizes these policies and events in a chronological framework to better understand how federal decisions influenced state policy and healthcare workforce outcomes.

To address this gap, the present study compiles and organizes policy actions and documented responses during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to construct a clear chronology of federal policies, Florida state policies, and actions affecting Florida's healthcare workforce. By systematically organizing these sources, this research aims to clarify how policy decisions developed over time and how they influenced healthcare systems within the state of Florida.

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)



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## Results/Conclusions:

- Federal and state governments responded to the COVID-19 pandemic through a combination of emergency declarations, public health guidance, and executive actions. While the federal government provided national guidance and support programs, many public health decisions were implemented at the state level.
- In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis issued multiple executive orders addressing quarantine measures, social distancing requirements, and healthcare system management.
- Several policies directly effected healthcare workers in Florida,. Reports indicate significant increases in telehealth usage, supply shortages, staffing shortages due to quarantine and illness, and increased working hours for healthcare professionals.
- Organizing COVID-19 policies into a chronological framework helps clarify how federal guidance, state policies, and healthcare workforce responses developed throughout the pandemic.
- These findings highlight the importance of timely policy coordination between federal and state governments during large-scale public health emergencies.
- This research contributes to a broader understanding of how public policy influences healthcare system responses during crises.
- Future research could expand this analysis to include additional states in order to compare policy responses across the United States.
- Further investigation into the experiences of different healthcare professions beyond nursing accounts may provide a more comprehensive understanding of workforce impacts during the pandemic.
- Additional policy sources, personal accounts, and government documents could further refine the chronological timeline of COVID-19 policy decisions.

## Methods:

This study used a historical document analysis to examine policy developments related to COVID-19 in the United States and the state of Florida.

Information was collected from peer-reviewed journals, government documents and policy reports, official state and federal websites, and news reports and healthcare organization publications. Primary databases and websites included ProQuest, ScienceDirect, government policy repositories, and organizational websites related to healthcare and public policy. Search results were filtered to prioritize scholarly publications, official government documents, and credible institutional reports related to the 2020-2023 COVID-19 pandemic period.

Collected documents were reviewed and categorized into three primary subjects of analysis- federal government policies, Floridian policies in relation to healthcare, and impacts and responses within the Florida healthcare workforce. Each policy or documented event was then organized chronologically in order to construct a timeline of pandemic responses.



## Resources:

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