

Memorandum



Date: March 12, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor *Daniella Levine Cava*

Subject: Memo Regarding Vaccine Eligibility

COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue to accelerate in Miami-Dade, and I’m proud that we have now vaccinated nearly half a million residents with 60% of all seniors 65+ who have already received at least one dose.

As supply expands and the federal vaccination operation ramps up nationwide, eligibility has expanded. In recent days, Governor DeSantis announced additional categories eligible to receive the vaccine including K-12 school employees, sworn law enforcement officers, and firefighters age 50 and older, as well as people of any age deemed to be extremely vulnerable by a physician.

Last week the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a directive requiring all school workers of all ages, including both teachers and staff, to be prioritized for vaccinations.

To ensure we are distributing our existing supply as efficiently as possible to protect frontline education workers and first responders, Miami-Dade County vaccination sites will begin offering COVID-19 vaccines to school personnel – from childcare to secondary school, including personnel of all ages – starting Monday, March 15. Prioritizing school personnel for vaccination, following state and federal guidance, is key to helping our community get back to normal as quickly as possible. Additionally, law enforcement officers and firefighters of all ages will be eligible to receive the vaccine at County sites.

To receive the vaccine from Miami-Dade County, eligible residents should pre-register through our portal available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole online at miamidade.gov/vaccine or by calling 305-614-2014.

For months I have continued to push alongside the Board of County Commissioners for expanded vaccine eligibility and access so that we can protect all our communities. Yesterday, I sent the Governor a letter, attached, urging him to set a more aggressive schedule to expand eligibility to all adults in Florida, and I’m pleased that the President has now announced that eligibility will include all adults by May 1. We must expand vaccination access swiftly to get more shots in arms, protect lives and livelihoods, and put this pandemic behind us.

Attachment

- c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
- Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
- Dr. Peter Paige, Chief Medical Officer
- Alfredo “Freddy” Ramirez III, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
- Alan Cominsky, Director, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department
- Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 11, 2021

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

Governor DeSantis:

Miami-Dade County continues to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination across our community and to reach important distribution milestones, with nearly half a million residents vaccinated and nearly 60% of all seniors 65+ who have already received at least one dose.

Recent announcements about expanded eligibility, including this week's update that the age requirement will be lowered to those 60 years and older, are welcome news. But I believe we must now set a more aggressive schedule to expand eligibility to all Florida residents.

I propose that Florida lower the minimum age requirement by 10 years every two weeks. Under this schedule, individuals 50 years and older would become eligible by the first week of April, with individuals 40 years and older becoming eligible by the middle of the month. This calendar would continue until all individuals 18 years and older in the state of Florida are eligible to receive the vaccine.

I am also urging the federal government to better coordinate with the state to clarify current eligibility and lessen confusion for all those seeking vaccines.

As supply issues continue to abate with increased vaccine production, cutting red tape surrounding vaccine eligibility is critical to protecting all our communities. Creating a schedule to expand access will provide important clarification and reassurance to those still waiting that their turn in line to receive the shot is approaching, and allow us to proactively plan and ramp up logistical efforts to accommodate expanded eligibility.

My emergency operations team is also working with the state and federal government to improve operational efficiency at the federal site at Miami Dade College North Campus, to get shots in arms as quickly and safely as possible.

With new, more virulent COVID strains spreading in our state, we are truly in a race against time when it comes to protecting our residents and we cannot delay.

I urge you to immediately announce a schedule for the expansion of eligibility to all Floridians age 18 and older as we work to swiftly get shots in arms, protect all our communities, and put this pandemic behind us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava