



January 6, 2021

Palm Beach County, District Six



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COVID-19 Vaccine Update



Dear

Friends,

The vaccine roll-out has been extremely confusing. I'm frustrated, too. Please understand this is a state-run plan executed in accordance with Florida Governor DeSantis' executive orders and carried out by the Florida Department of Health. Under the Governor's direction, the Dept. of Health is responsible for receipt and distribution of vaccines.

The initial priorities are for:

- health care personnel
- seniors 65 years of age and older
- long-term care facility residents and staff.

Here's what we know so far:

Dr. Alina Alonso, Director of the Department of Health in Palm Beach County, updated me this morning explaining some of the distribution issues. She explained

the first week the vaccine was available, her office received 20,000 doses. Last Monday, they received only 4,500. With so few doses available for the senior population, which constitutes 25% of our County's population (over 400,000 people), it has been challenging to meet the incredible demand.

To be placed on the vaccine waiting list, please email the Department of Health at chd50feedback@flhealth.gov. Provide your name, date of birth, address, and telephone number. Please understand that it will take some time to get everyone on the waiting list vaccinated. I encourage you to get on the list. Please continue to take precautions in the meantime.

At the moment, the County is working with the Health Care District and the Florida Department of Health on logistics to provide equitable opportunities in the near future for vaccinations in accordance with the Governor's priorities, most likely through an on-line reservation. Our plans are contingent upon receipt of vaccinations from state and federal resources. These local efforts would be in addition to state and federal efforts and will include drive-up/walk-up locations as well as a mobile unit plan to include assisting homebound residents. We just need the vaccines!

Other information: there have been stories about the Town of Palm Beach. We have been informed by the State there was an agreement between the State and the Town to provide vaccines for the Town's fire department. The State sent more vaccines than the Town had firefighters so the extras were given to residents until supplies ran out.

Also, federally qualified health centers (FQHC's) will receive a direct shipment from the federal government. If you are a patient at one of these clinics, you will be notified of vaccine opportunities by the clinic.

The Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in West Palm Beach is providing vaccines to veterans 75 and older. Please call the hospital for more information.

As more doses are delivered, I expect to see the speed of vaccinations increase. I will continue working with our partners to ensure we provide as many opportunities

as possible for residents to get a vaccine safely and swiftly.

I will continue to keep you posted. Also, if you have further questions about state operations, you may also contact your State Senator or Representative.

Thank you for your patience.

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