



# MESSAGE

FROM MAYOR DAN GELBER

Lots of news to discuss regarding the vaccine and the variant people are talking about. But I wanted to first take a moment to discuss recent crime issues in our City.

This weekend was particularly bad in South Beach. An armed robbery of tourists was just one of the moments we should never have to even hear about. Over the course of the pandemic it has only gotten worse, as it seems like we are becoming even more of a magnet for those who come here with bad intentions. It has to stop. I've asked the Manager, the Chief and senior staff to immediately take action, including mobilizing a substantial increase in police presence. I've also asked the County Mayor to program County police to assist during the most challenging periods. But these are only short-term responses to an unacceptable condition.

As I've said before, the entertainment district has to go. We cannot suffer it any longer. I believe it will flourish as an art deco cultural district. The rest of our City has embraced that profile. We just need to make that happen in South Beach. We are well past the time for incremental reform. I'll put policing and spring break on our next agenda, again, but we need to be willing to take stronger action, even if it is opposed by some powerful businesses and other interests that have done well in the current environment. We cannot continue to water-down our responses. This is about our safety and quality of life.

Now to COVID. Much like the last few weeks, the supply of vaccines continues to be limited in number and limited to who is eligible. Right now, only those over 65 are eligible although some folks of any age with vulnerable conditions are authorized through hospitals.

Because the supply is so limited, appointments are gone often within minutes of availability. Please go to the County website, [MiamiDade.Gov/Vaccine](https://www.miamidade.gov/Vaccine), for up to date information on where you can call. But remember, you can look for appointments anywhere in the state; so if you can get one in Broward or Palm Beach, take it.

Almost no cities have the apparatus to actually deliver the vaccine themselves, as that has been almost entirely the responsibility of the County and state. I did challenge our staff, however, to get in the game and I am very proud of what our City under the leadership of our interim manager Raul Aguila has accomplished. Over the last month we have set up vaccination pods at many of our congregate living communities and at Unidad in north beach. We've also sent fire rescue staff to folks who are homebound. And we've transported many from our senior facilities to Mt Sinai to avail themselves of vaccinations there. We've also reached out to our faith leaders, and other community support groups to help get to the most vulnerable to get them vaccinated. All in all, the City has delivered or helped deliver well over 2,000 shots.

I would add that we don't expect this to be over soon.

As you can see, we have only given 1 in 4 seniors in Miami Dade their first dose. This lags slightly behind the State as a whole. And as I've pointed out before, Miami Dade is not getting its fair share of vaccine. We have endured approximately 20% of the infections and deaths, yet we are only getting a little over 10% of the vaccine. That's not fair. We need more vaccine.

Finally, and importantly, while the amount of positive infections and the number of people each day requiring hospitalizations are plateauing, the levels are way too high. Since the governor opened up all businesses you can see an observable and steady increase. No doubt you have heard about the new variants of COVID that are appearing in some places. What is known as the British variant is already in Miami-Dade so it is likely to spread as it has in the other areas where it appeared. Although there is not clarity yet, it does appear that it is likely more contagious and possibly more dangerous than the COVID we have been already dealing with. [Here is Dr. Aileen Marty with her thoughts.](#)

So, please heed Dr. Marty's advice, now is not the time to let down your guard. Please don't quit wearing the mask, or masks. And thanks for all your doing, your patience, calm and sacrifice. Stay healthy and mostly at home.

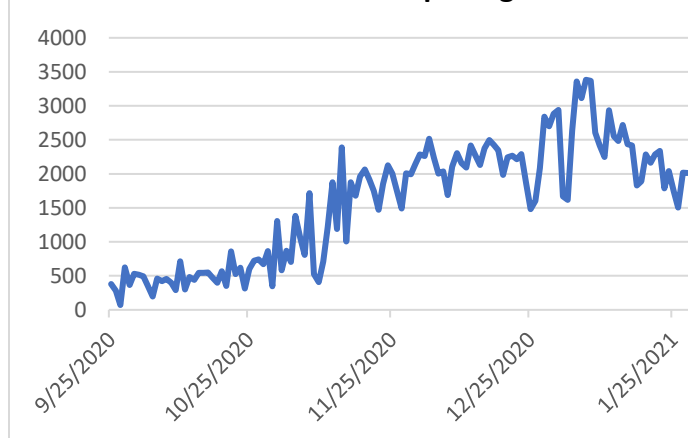
## COVID-19 Vaccinations As-Of 01/29/2021

Vaccinated with 1st Dose	Miami-Dade County	Florida
Total population	6.10%	7.60%
65 and older	24.20%	26%

## Miami-Dade County Burden of COVID-19 morbidity / mortality relative to FL Through 1/29/2021

	Miami-Dade County
Percent of FL population	13.20%
Percent of all COVID-19 cases diagnosed in FL	21.80%
Percent of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in FL	14.60%
Percent of all COVID-19 deaths in FL	18.40%
Percent of all people receiving at least one vaccine dose in FL	10.50%

County Daily New COVID-19 Cases - Since Statewide Reopening



County Daily New COVID-19 Hospitalizations - Since Statewide Reopening

