



MESSAGE

FROM MAYOR DAN GELBER

So, before we talk about the virus and the vaccine, a few announcements about Spring Break which officially starts on Monday. The pandemic has only intensified some of the issues in South Beach. Incredibly cheap round-trip tickets, discounted rooms, and the fact that other places are too cold or not open, or both, has made our community a prime destination. While there is no way to know, we need to prepare for an outsized Spring Break. Here is what we are doing:

And of course, these are only short-term fixes. This is an area that screams out for an overhaul.

Now to the vaccine. The City continues to do its part to vaccinate our seniors. At Unidad in North Beach, and at various congregate living communities, our repurposed City staff are providing about 1,000 shots a week, both first and second doses. Also, to our homebound seniors. I visited with 95 year old Saul Dymant, a holocaust survivor, who was overjoyed to get his second shot last week. He told me he was so relieved he wished the dance halls were open. As of today, our program has delivered 3,574 first doses.



At this point, 35% of Miami Dade seniors have received their first shot. You need to know that this is lagging behind the rest of the State. The problem is, the state is simply not giving our County a fair percentage of the vaccine. While our County has felt 22% of the positive cases, our residents comprise less than 10% of people receiving their first dose. If you are eligible, please continue to try to get an appointment at all the places listed on [the County website](#), or any other places in the State of Florida.

Spring Break Measures

Midnight Curfew Citywide

Increased Police & Code Compliance Staffing

Enhanced traffic enforcement & marine patrol

Fixed-post police officers in South Beach
& patrols on the beachwalk & sand

Free mask distribution

Partnership with law enforcement partners,
including Miami-Dade County and the U.S. Coast
Guard

License Plate Readers for eastbound traffic
on the Julia Tuttle and MacArthur Causeways

Traffic mitigation plan on 5th Street

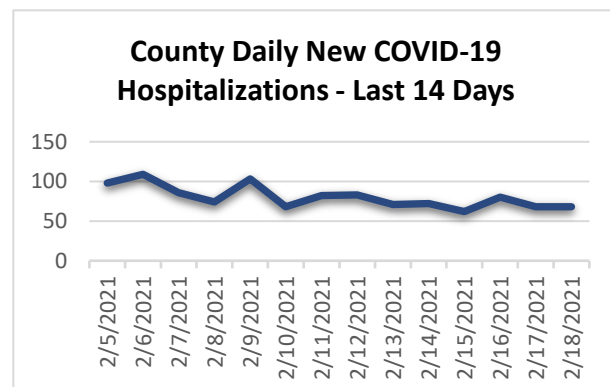
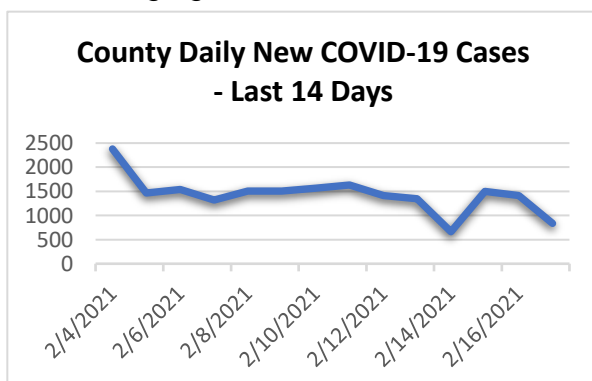
Regarding the virus, we need to do better. In just the last week, the State Department of Health reported 161 people have succumbed to this disease in Miami-Dade County alone bringing the total death count to 5,242. To put this in perspective, that makes COVID, officially, the leading cause of death in our County. More have died from this virus than heart disease, than cancer and strokes. And 20 times more than died from the flu.

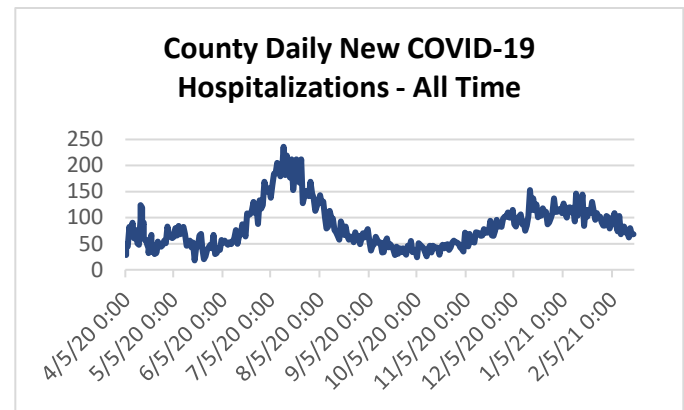
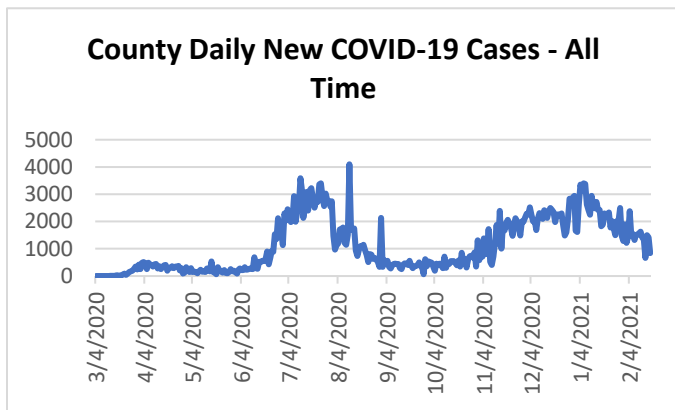
Miami-Dade COVID-19 deaths through 02/18 & 2019 mortality rates	
Deaths to date:	5,242
COVID-19 to date:	183 per 100,000
Heart disease:	181 per 100,000
Cancer:	153 per 100,000
Unintentional injuries:	32 per 100,000
Influenza and pneumonia:	10 per 100,000

With Spring Break approaching, and at least the British variant already spreading in our community, we don't have the luxury of standing down or letting up. As you can see, over the last few weeks we have seen a reduction in the virus and hospitalizations. We are clearly past the spike we experienced over the holidays. But if you look over the entire span of the pandemic, it is also clear we are still way too high. And we are about to enter Spring Break which will undoubtedly only make things more challenging.

COVID-19 Vaccinations (at least 1 dose) 02/16/2021		
	Total population	65 & older
Miami-Dade	8.5%	35.7%
Broward	10.9%	46.3%
Palm Beach	15.9%	52.8%
Florida	11.5%	41.4%

Miami-Dade County Burden of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality relative to Florida, through 02/16/2021	
	Miami-Dade County
Percent of FL population	13.2%
Percent of all COVID-19 cases diagnosed in FL	22.2%
Percent of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in FL	14.4%
Percent of all COVID-19 deaths in FL	17.8%
Percent of all people receiving at least one vaccine dose in FL	11.5%





The vaccine cannot be counted on to protect you yet, as only 8% of our residents have even received a first dose. So please be smart, wear masks, don't take unnecessary risks. Don't become a casualty of this simply because of fatigue. In a few months, this will begin to feel like it is behind us. But it is not behind us yet.

Thanks for your patience, calm and sacrifice. Stay healthy and mostly at home.