



MESSAGE

FROM MAYOR DAN GELBER

Let's get right to vaccinations. Candidly, there was obviously inadequate preparation federally and statewide for the rollout of the vaccinations. Notwithstanding that everyone knew at some point we would be needing a system for delivering injections, there is not any true top down plan. But that doesn't change one iota how important it is, how critical it is, to get people vaccinated. Frankly, given the amount of virus in our community, it has never been more important.

So, you know, our City did prepare. Months ago, we rented an industrial refrigerator for storage, and we have trained and qualified all our fire rescue and EMT's so that they can deliver the vaccines. We've also planned for the logistics of this effort. Since the vaccine has become available, we are doing all we can to deliver it to the communities for whom it is available, per the Governor's directives.

Since early last week we have been reprogramming city trolleys to bring seniors from our congregate living communities to Mt. Sinai to receive the vaccine. We are bringing close to 50 residents every morning but hope to increase that capacity as more vaccines become available.

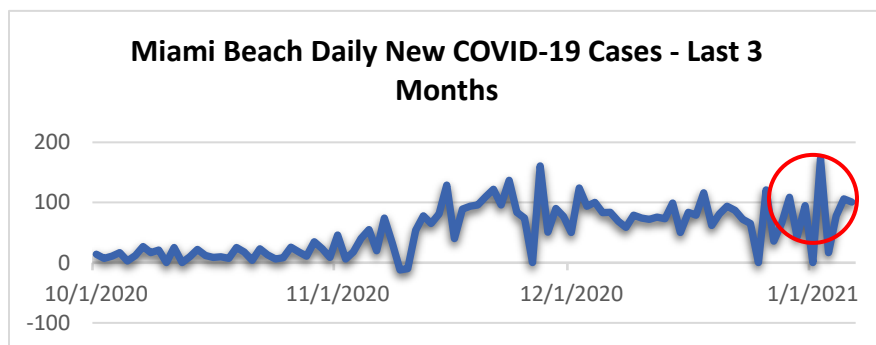
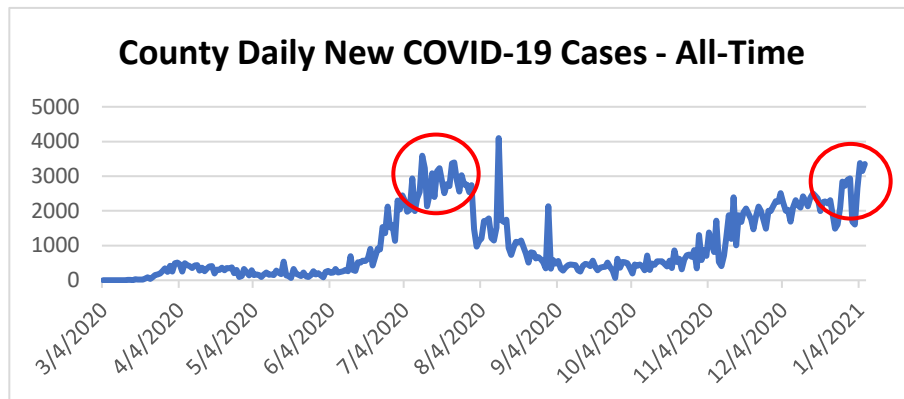


Second, our City has begun to administer the vaccine to some of our congregate living communities and to homebound seniors through our fire department. On Tuesday the City received its first doses, and within 24 hours had fully stood up a vaccination pod at one of our senior facilities where over 100 residents were safely, professionally and effectively vaccinated in just a few hours. We also sent firemen with vaccines to some of our older, homebound residents in their apartments. As we get more vaccines, we will deploy it, as fast as we get it. I want to thank City Staff, especially Fire Chief Fernandez and Maria Ruiz and her team. And of course our health care partner, Mt. Sinai Medical Center. As of today we estimate that Mt. Sinai and the City have vaccinated close to 4,000 of our residents above 65. No City, I am aware of, is doing what we are doing.

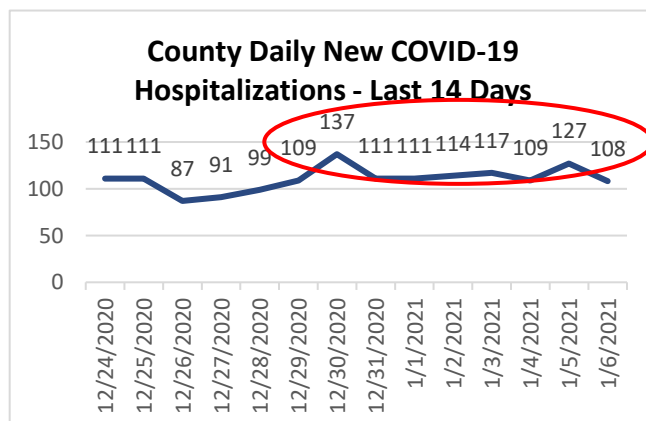
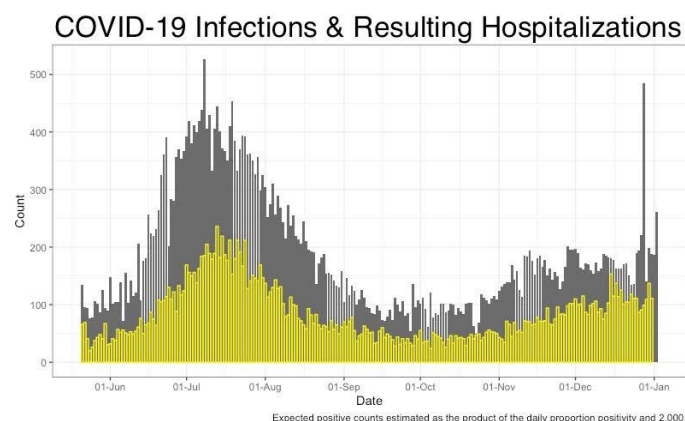
This week, options to receive the vaccine county-wide are coming available. If you are over 65 and want to receive the vaccine at a hospital or a county vaccination center, please go to the [County information page](#) to see all the places that are available for vaccination appointments. More hospitals, including Jackson Memorial Hospital, are delivering the vaccine and very soon there will be a drive-thru at Hard Rock stadium. [The information is at this website](#). Recognize that demand is far exceeding supply for now, but hopefully that will change.

Regarding the virus, things are not good. Today, the Department of Health reported that COVID-19 infections in Miami-Dade County surpassed 310,000, and 4,260 people in our county have succumbed to this virus.

Over the last few days we have seen the surge that was anticipated after all the December holidays. Three days in a row with more than 3,000 infections in our County. Last time we



experienced that amount of infection was in mid-July in the midst of the summer surge. Of concern to me is also our Miami Beach numbers. While they are not as reliable as the County numbers, they are not meaningless. We are also clearly seeing big increases in our community. County-wide hospitalizations have followed with nearly every day seeing 100 people checking in ill.



We are trying to get the point across that people need to be more careful. Especially our visitors. While I understand that businesses have been hurt and jobs put in peril, we all have to know that, as this chart demonstrates, an increase in positive cases is always followed by an increase in hospitalizations a few days later. And an almost certain percentage of those hospitalized will die. We have asked businesses to abide by the curfew, we have asked them to keep music at ambient levels as bars with blaring music leads to increased spread of the virus. Over the last week we shuttered 20 businesses who violated these emergency orders. I know they are good corporate citizens, and that they will do better going forward.

But we all need to do better. Wear the mask. Don't quit exercising good judgment especially when we are within sight of the vaccine.

Finally, I wanted to speak briefly about last night's events at the Capitol. Our Nation has been horribly divided. More divided than at any time in my lifetime. And last night, those divisions displayed their ugly, violent, shocking margins. We are a more durable democracy than the events of last night. But yesterday's shocking images were a startling reminder that our democracy can't be taken for granted. That there are moments when it can be threatened. Perhaps, that is why it is so critical that each of us affirm through our own conduct our commitment to the vitality of our democracy. Even in disagreement, respecting one another, resisting the urge to demonize. That is the best way to honor and maintain our democratic traditions.

So, as always, thank you for your patience, calm and sacrifice. Stay healthy, mostly at home, and when it's your turn, get vaccinated.