

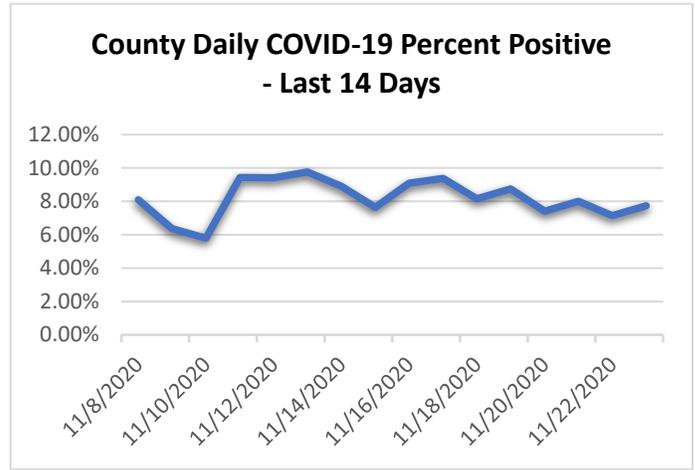
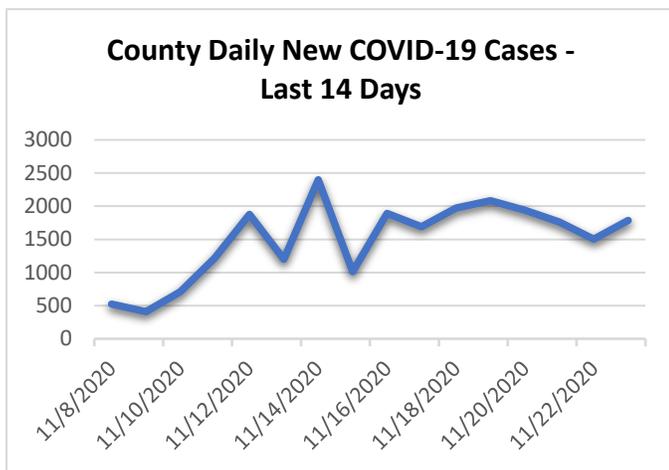


MESSAGE

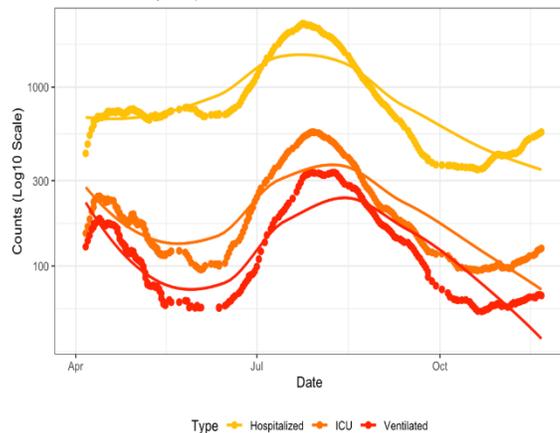
FROM MAYOR DAN GELBER

This morning, Tuesday, November 24th, the State Department of Health has reported that COVID-19 cases in Miami-Dade County surpassed 214,302 and 3,782 people in our County have succumbed to the virus. Also, today the state death toll surpassed 18,000.

First the virus. [Things continue to head in the wrong direction](#). Too many positive cases, too many hospitalizations and our positive percentage while fluctuating is soon going to exceed 10%. Remember the surge we are feeling now is actually from earlier this month, so we haven't even yet felt the increases in illness from this past week or two where we saw some large increases in community spread.



Overall Miami-Dade County Hospital COVID-19 Census
Miami Dade County; 02 April to 21 November 2020



[This graph](#) tracks hospitalizations, in yellow, and the resulting ICU referrals, in orange, and referrals to vents, in red. You can see that the surge we are in the midst of now is similar to the one we experienced earlier this year during the summer. But it is slightly flatter, especially the ICU's and vent curves. That is probably due to improvements in therapies and treatments which are resulting in shorter hospital stays and people staying off of vents. But the increase is still unmistakable and will continue if we don't adjust our behavior.

That seems like a tall order as we are about to spend over a month celebrating the holidays which, at any other time, would be precisely when we gather with friends, extended family, coworkers and neighbors to celebrate each other and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. But it is precisely the time when we need to be careful. Wear the mask. Please wear the

mask. Be physically distant. Take special care of the elderly and folks with vulnerabilities. More than half the people who catch this virus get it from someone who is asymptomatic, who is not showing any symptoms. And

even a negative test won't mean you are out of the woods and all clear, as the virus can reveal itself hours after your negative test. Now that vaccines are in sight and we can see the end of this sorry episode, we just need to keep it up a little longer. A few more months of sacrifice. Especially this upcoming month. So, thanks.

I want to take a moment to talk about South Beach. What has been known as our Entertainment District needs a serious overhaul which is why a few months ago we started the process of reimagining the entertainment district, in fact, as an Art Deco Cultural District. It is certainly the time to do so, as recently we have seen the kinds of excesses that have no place in our community. We've generated dozens of ideas, major changes in policing and code enforcement, and initiatives and ordinances that will encourage a different experience in this area, including pedestrianizing Ocean Drive. On December 4th I'm convening a Special Commission Meeting to go over these ideas and make sure we are on track. You can watch it online on our City website and if you would like updates please email me. But we've also asked our City police and code enforcement officers to redouble their efforts to make sure that laws are being followed and businesses are abiding by our code of conduct. Over the next few weeks, expect vigorous presence of police and code officers in this district. And in the months that follow, much change is coming. It needs to.

Finally, it is Thanksgiving this week. Obviously, 2020 has been well beyond awful. So many families have felt the terrible effects of this virus. It's impact on lives and livelihoods has been sickening. But even in the midst of these challenging times, I wanted to tell you how grateful I am for the blessings around us. Even in the face of these unprecedented challenges and trials, I remain hopeful and full of thanks. Thankful for my family, my community, and my colleagues. Thankful that even in the face of such adversity, our community remains strong and optimistic. Thankful that even when confronting the worst of circumstances, we are able to still display the best in ourselves.

Next year at this time, God willing, our society will be vaccinated, and we will have resumed our lives, where we can shake hands, hug, and embrace with impunity. Where we can enjoy concerts, dine indoors, celebrate our faith with others in small and large numbers, cheer at sporting events, and most importantly, get together with the people we love most, whenever we want to. I am thankful that we are on our way out of this mess, and thankful for the people, especially our health care professionals, who have helped us get through it.

So, thanks for the honor of serving as your Mayor. And thanks for your calm, your patience and sacrifice. Stay healthy, at home and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.