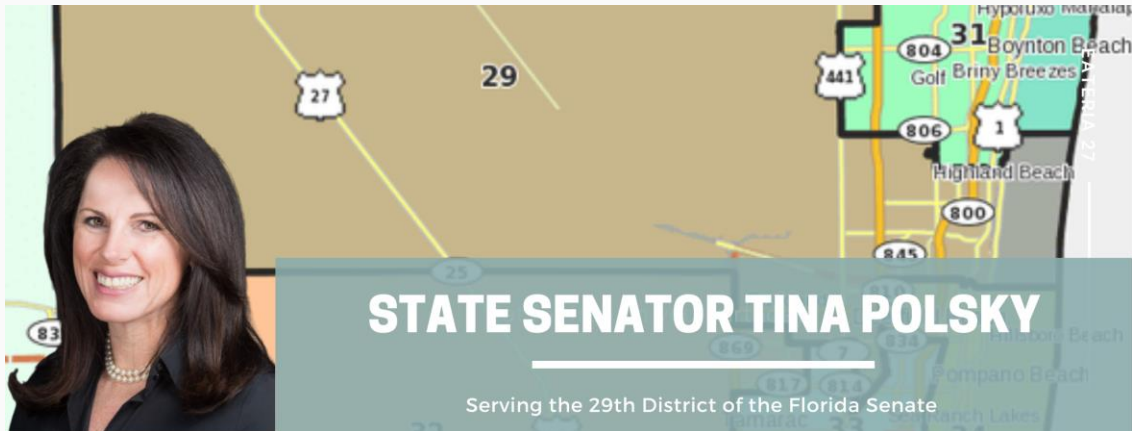


[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear

Friends,

I want to wish everyone who is celebrating a very Merry Christmas! I hope that you all have a happy and healthy Holiday Season! I know that this year's Holiday Festivities may look a little different but please make sure that you are wearing your mask and practicing social distancing when appropriate. Wearing your mask and social distancing is the simplest way to protect yourself as well as your friends and family from COVID.

The initial phase of COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution has begun in Florida. While we are so grateful to see the light at the end of the tunnel, its important to know that vaccinations for the general public have yet to be made available. The Federal, State, and County governments are working hard to distribute that vaccines to hospital health care workers, nursing homes and long term care facilities, and front line workers. Information about the vaccination process is limited and frequently changing, so stay tuned for more information!

Although we are working remotely, my staff and I are here to help. Please reach out to us via email at Polsky.Tina@FLSenate.gov or call (561) 443-8170 as we are checking voicemails regularly.

For the most up to date information please follow me on Facebook,
@SenPolsky29.

Stay Safe!

Senator Tina Polsky

State COVID-19 Announcements

Reemployment Assistance

- Governor Ron DeSantis has directed DEO to continue waiving the waiting week requirement for claimants through **December 26, 2020**.
- Additionally, the work search and work registration requirements will continue to be waived through **January 2, 2021**.
- **Claimant Communication:** In the coming weeks, the Department will be sending important emails to claimants, including actions that may need to be taken on their CONNECT account. The Department sends emails from Do-Not-Reply email addresses, these are official notifications from the Department.

Palm Beach County COVID-19 Announcements

- Palm Beach Vaccine Distribution Update
 - Three priority operations have started or will start next week. These are considered Phase 1a operations under the State plan:
 - **Hospital health care workers** - Palm Beach County hospitals are expected to begin receiving deliveries of

Moderna vaccine next week. These vaccines are for the hospital medical personnel and other hospital staff critical to their mission. The vaccinations will be given by their own personnel.

- **Nursing homes and long-term care facilities** – CVS and Walgreens are the exclusive providers of vaccinations at these facilities.
 - **Front-line medical personnel, Fire-Rescue, other healthcare workers** - The County Health Department is expecting a limited number of doses next week to begin vaccinating these worker populations with priority for those workers that will be administering the vaccines.
 - Palm Beach County's Mandatory Mask Ordinance has been extended through December 21, and is likely to be extended again.
 - The Palm Beach County COVID-19 Education Compliance team is comprised of representatives from state and local agencies including the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Palm Beach County Code Enforcement, Fire Rescue, the Florida Department of Health-Palm Beach County, and municipal police departments. Team members will proactively conduct spot inspections of local businesses and public venues, noting where masks are not being worn and/or social distancing is not being consistently practiced.
 - For more information or to contact the COVID Education Compliance Team or to notify the team about any violations please call **561-24COVID** (561-242-6843) or email covidcompliance@pbcgov.or
 - The Palm Beach County Victim Services and Certified Rape Crisis Center staffs a 24-hour helpline, 561-833-7273, that is available every day. Advocates are available to provide immediate support to victims of crime.
 - Because of COVID-19, some individuals are fearful or reluctant to call the helpline, but residents should know that precautions are
-

utilized to ensure the safety of victims and staff while services are provided.

- SNAP Sign-Up expands to eight Palm Beach County Library locations. Palm Beach County Food Bank benefit specialists assist with the SNAP application process and conduct the food stamp interview. Specialists can also help with other benefit applications available through the ACCESS Florida system including Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Applicants must call to make an appointment at the following locations
 - Greenacres Branch
Mondays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
3750 Jog Road, Greenacres 33467
Contact: Gustavo Amador, 329-5931
(English and Spanish)
 - Jupiter Branch
Mondays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
705 Military Trail, Jupiter 33458
Contact: Mario Mendez, 345-5085
(English, Spanish and Q'anjob'al)
 - Main Library
Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach 33406
Contact: Riquet Lucien (English and Creole), James Vil (English and Spanish), 233-2600
 - Hagen Ranch Road Branch
Tuesdays, 1 - 4 p.m.
14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach 33446
Contact: James Vil, 894-7500
(English and Creole)
 - Glades Road Branch
1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
20701 95th Avenue South, Boca Raton 33434
-

Contact: Mario Mendez, 345-5085
(English, Spanish and Q'anjob'al)

- Okeechobee Boulevard Branch
1st & 3rd Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
5689 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach 33417
Contact: Riquet Lucien, 316-0895
(English and Creole)
- Royal Palm Beach Branch
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
500 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach 33411
Contact: Riquet Lucien, 790-6030
(English and Creole)
- Lantana Road Branch
Fridays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth 33462
Contact: Mario Mendez, 345-5085
(English, Spanish and Q'anjob'al)
- Members must make appointments by calling the numbers above.
They can also email the food bank
at Benefits@pbcfoodbank.org to schedule appointments or ask
questions.

School District Announcements

- The School District has opened its Going the Distance Together information Hotline, (561) 969-5840. The Hotline is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The information is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole.
- The School District has launched an online dashboard to keep parents and staff informed of confirmed Covid-19 cases identified among individuals who were recently on District property. Click here: [PalmBeachSchools.org/Covad Dashboard \[palmbeachschools.org\]](https://PalmBeachSchools.org/Covad-Dashboard)
 - The dashboard is updated nightly with confirmed cases by date, school, and the number of students and employees affected. You

will also find a link to the Covid-19 dashboard on the District's main webpage.

- The District has worked closely with the Florida Department of Health and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County to supply principals with a COVID-19 toolkit and provide support with protocols, contact tracing, and communication.
- Parents will be notified directly by the Health Department if their children have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 on District property. Employees will be notified by Risk and Benefits Management if they have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case.
 - Very soon after that notification, a building-wide message will be sent to all parents and staff informing them of the case, and that if they didn't receive a letter from the Health Department or Risk Management it is very unlikely that they came in contact with the individual with the confirmed case.
- For answers to frequently asked questions about the health and safety protocols in place in schools, including preventive steps and the communications protocols during COVID, [click here \[r20.rs6.net\]](#).

Food Assistance Announcements

- United Way has launched an [Interactive Food Finder map](#) to assist in locating food and hot meals across Palm Beach County.
- Feeding South Florida food distribution sites provide a drive-thru food distribution for anyone. You can find their calendar of Food Distributions at www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19 please note the list is updated daily, as dates, times, and locations may change.

Testing Site Updates

Please note that all Palm Beach County Testing Sites will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

- **FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches:** Absolutely **anyone** is able to visit the testing site at the **Ballpark of the Palm Beaches**; you don't need to be symptomatic to be tested, but you need to state that you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19. However, an appointment is necessary; to get an appointment please call **561-642-1000**.
 - The site is open by appointment only Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 - Antigen (rapid) Testing is available at the FITTEAM Ballpark of the Palm Beaches testing site. An appointment is not necessary. Tests are available for all ages with symptoms. The site will be open Tuesday – Saturday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - **To preregister with your information for antigen testing go to: <https://www.patientportalfl.com/s/>**
 - **Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade:** This site offers walk-up testing. You do not need to be symptomatic but an appointment is **required**. Please call **561-642-1000** to schedule an appointment.
 - The site is open by appointment only Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 - **South County Civic Center Site:**
 - ***Rapid (Antigen) Testing***-The testing site is located at 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446. An appointment is not necessary for rapid testing. Tests are available for all ages with symptoms. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
 - ***PCR/Molecular (Standard) Testing***-The testing site is located at 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446. No appointment needed. Testing is available to anyone over the age of 12, with or without COVID-19 symptoms. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
 - **FAU site:** The testing site is located at the FAU Tech Runway on the north end of the FAU campus at 901 NW 35th Street, Boca Raton, 33431. Appointments are required for testing. To make an appointment, call 561-642-1000 Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
-

Testing is available to anyone over the age of 12, with or without COVID-19 symptoms.

- Drive-up rapid testing is available at Florida Atlantic University.
 - An appointment is not necessary for rapid testing. Tests are available for all ages with symptoms. The site will be open Tuesday – Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Test results will be text to your phone within 30 minutes.
- **The Village of Wellington:** Palm Beach County has partnered with The Village of Wellington to provide free walk-up COVID-19 testing for all western communities' residents age 12 and over. Health officials from Premier Family Health will conduct tests at the Wellington Community Center located at 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, 33414. Testing will be available daily by appointment, and is available for both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents. To make an appointment, call 561-753-2484.
- **Town Center Mall in Boca Raton:** Walk-up testing located at the Town Center at Boca Raton Mall, 6000 Glades Rd., Boca Raton, 33431, at the Sears parking lot. Testing every day, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., free to any age, with or without symptoms. No appointment necessary.
- CVS has expanded its testing sites and now includes the following locations near District 29:
 - CVS Pharmacy, 520 S Federal Highway, Boca Raton, 33432
 - CVS Pharmacy, 8954 Lantana Rd, Lake Worth, 33467
 - CVS Pharmacy, 1690 S Federal Highway, Delray Beach, 33483
- **Homebound Resident Testing:** Residents eligible include homebound elderly or individuals with disabilities who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and cannot leave their homes to access one of the drive-up or walk-up test collection sites. Residents who believe they are eligible for the in-home testing option should call 561-712-6400 for a pre-qualifying assessment. The testing line is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The **Health Care District's C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinics'** site at the Delray Beach clinic is located at 225 South Congress Avenue.

Testing at this walk-up site is available by appointment Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

- Residents are encouraged to call the Health Care District's Testing Hotline, 561-642-1000, to schedule appointments at all of its testing sites. Testing is open to individuals of any age who do not need to be symptomatic
- AnyLabTest Now, located at 5175 West Atlantic Ave, Suite D, Delary Beach, is now conducting COVID anti-body test for \$70.00. You will receive your test results before you leave! Contact (561) 638-5227 for more information.
- NR Mobile will come to your home or office, anywhere in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties to conduct either a COVID Swab or COVID Anti-Body test for \$150.00. For more information contact (954) 823-8501.
- Walmart has announced a partnership with Quest Diagnostics and the Department of Health and Human Services to bring new testing sites to South Florida. These drive-thru sites will be available at the pharmacy drive-thru windows at several Walmart Neighborhood Market Stores.
 - Appointments are required and can be made at www.MyQuestCOVIDTest.com. Any adult who meets CDC and state and local guidelines on who should be tested, including first responders, health care providers, and others with symptoms of COVID-19.
 - The closest site to District 29 will be located at the Walmart Neighborhood Market at 12700 S. Military Trail, Boynton Beach, FL 33436.
- MD Now is currently offering COVID-19 testing at certain Palm Beach County locations M-F from 8 am-4 pm. Please note appointments are REQUIRED and MD Now accepts most major insurances - you can visit MDNow.com for more information. The following locations are offering testing for people with MILD symptoms and first responders and/or healthcare workers without symptoms:
 - Boca Raton North, 1200 Yamato Road Ste. A7, Boca Raton

- Call to schedule an appointment: 561-220-4011
- Boynton Beach East, 1625 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach, FL
 - Call to schedule an appointment: 561-220-4280
- West Palm Beach/South Dixie, 2606 S Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach
 - Call to schedule an appointment: 954-737-4351
- Palm Beach Gardens East, 2534 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens
 - Call to schedule an appointment: 561-899-5978

Municipal Announcements

- The City of Boca Raton has a Small Business Recovery Relief Grant program. The grant program is intended to provide eligible businesses who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with one-time grants of up to \$5,000. For more information, or to apply, [click here](#)

Broward County COVID-19 Announcements

- Broward Vaccine Plans and Updates
 - Memorial Health Care System has provided an update regarding its vaccine plan and other COVID updates, you can watch that update [here](#).
 - Please note that the Broward County 311 Call Center, including the COVID-19 Hotline and Business Complaint line, will close on December 25 and January 1, in observance of the holidays. However, residents can still submit requests for service and report a COVID-19 business violation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through [MyBroward.Broward.org](https://www.broward.org/MyBroward).
 - Broward County Transit service continues to operate at a reduced service level, Monday through Saturdays, with normally scheduled service on Sundays.
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- Bus schedules are available at <https://www.broward.org/BCT/Schedules>.
- Additional buses are being added to the busiest routes to accommodate social distancing (50% load capacity). Limited Stop or "Breeze" bus service remains suspended until further notice and weekday Express bus service is operating on 30-minute schedules during peak travel hours.
- The SBA has reopened the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance program portal to all eligible applicants still experiencing economic impacts due to COVID-19.
 - SBA's EIDL program offers long-term low-interest assistance for a small business or non-profit organizations. To keep payments affordable for small businesses, SBA offers loans with long repayment terms, up to a maximum of 30 years. Plus, the first payment is deferred for one year.
 - Additionally, the EIDL Advance will provide up to \$10,000 (\$1,000 per employee) of emergency economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties, and these emergency grants do not have to be repaid.
 - The EIDL program will remain open until the funds are depleted or until December 20, 2020.

Broward County Public Schools Announcements

- Broward County Public Schools has a dedicated [COVID-19 site](#). The site includes important resources regarding coronavirus and information regarding keeping children healthy. Please note information is always changing and BCPS will provide the latest updates as soon as possible.
 - The Broward County Public Schools [Coronavirus dashboard](#) provides information on all reported cases for students and staff.
 - BCPS is committed to the health and safety of our students, our staff, and our community. All students, parents/caregivers, and employees
-

should answer the [Self-Assessment at Home Self Screening](#) at home each morning prior to coming to school.

Food Assistance Announcements

- Feeding South Florida food distribution sites provide a drive-thru food distribution for anyone. You can find their calendar of Food Distributions at www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19 please note the list is updated daily, as dates, times, and locations may change.

Broward County Testing Site Updates

- **CB Smith Park:** The site does not require appointments. The site is operated 7 days a week from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The site is operated by CDR Maguire, who is contracted by the State of Florida. Anti-bodies tests are now being conducted on-site.
 - This site will be closed on December 25 and January 1.
- **Publix at Coral Ridge:** This site has been TEMPORARILY relocated. 11600 W. Sample Road, Coral Springs, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM until 5: PM.
- **Quiet Waters Park:** The drive-thru testing site is testing asymptomatic adults and children. The site is operated in collaboration with FDOH and the Broward Sheriff's Office and is located at 401 Powerline Road, Deerfield Beach. The site is open from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday, and has a priority lane for testing of Broward County Public School children and staff. Testing is available to all ages, symptomatic and asymptomatic and pre-registration is not required.
- **Trade Winds Park:** The drive-thru site is testing asymptomatic adults and children. The site is operated by Florida Department of Health, in collaboration with City of Coconut Creek, Broward Sheriff's Office and Broward County Parks and Recreation Division and is located at 3600 W Sample Road, Coconut Creek. The site is open Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and has a priority lane for testing of Broward County Public School children and staff

- **Mullins Park:** The walk-up site is testing asymptomatic adults and children. This site is operated by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and is located at 10000 Ben Geiger Drive, Coral Springs. The site open from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday and has a priority lane for testing of Broward County Public School children and staff. Please be sure to wear a facial covering when arriving for testing.
 - This site will be closed December 24-25 and January 1.
- **Florida Panthers Ice Den:** The walk-up testing site is open everyday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The site is located at 3299 Sportplex Dr, Coral Springs, which offers rapid testing ONLY. Results are provided via text or email.
- **Mobile Testing:** Broward County, the Florida Department of Health in Broward (FDOH-Broward), American Medical Response (AMR), and Century Ambulance Services (CAS) is operating a mobile/inhome testing program. Residents eligible for the new testing option include homebound elderly or individuals with disabilities who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and cannot leave their homes to access one of the drive-up or walk-up test collection sites. Hours of operation are from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For general information and homebound testing appointments, call 954-412-7300.
- **Fort Lauderdale International Airport:** Effective December 9, 2020, the Broward County Aviation Department (BCAD) began offering COVID-19 testing as an additional amenity to the traveling public. The BCAD has partnered with Spirit Airlines and Nomi Health of Utah to provide the testing service. Testing is conducted pre-security in Terminal 3. Visit fl.net/coronavirus for more information.

Municipal Announcements

- The City of Coconut Creek is operating a reduced/modified Community Shuttle Service.
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- The City of Corals Springs is waiving fares on their Community Shuttle Service
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Other Important Announcements

- Please note, there will be no garbage, yard waste and recycling collection services in unincorporated Palm Beach County and all SWA facilities are closed on Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25, 2020). There is no make-up collection day.
 - However, under the new collection service contract using standardized garbage carts, garbage will be collected outside of the cart from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1,. Residents still should place all debris normally collected on these days curbside by 6 a.m.
 - New Year's Day (Friday, Jan. 1, 2021) will not affect your scheduled garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk waste collection services in unincorporated Palm Beach County. All material should be at the curb on New Year's Day by 6 a.m. as collection service may be much earlier than normal.
 - County residents living in one of Palm Beach County's 39 municipalities should contact their municipality directly for their holiday collection schedule. A [list of municipal contacts](#) can be found online.
 - As the number of COVID-19 cases in the state have begun to increase, the potentially devastating collision of COVID-19 and the flu (twindemic) this season is real. That is why Florida Blue, the Florida Hospital Association ([FHA](#)), and the Florida Medical Association ([FMA](#)) have joined together to encourage Floridians to get a flu shot so all may have a #FluFreeFlorida. The organizations are uniting to use their collective and powerful voices to raise awareness around the state about the importance of getting a flu vaccine this year, encouraging all to 'spread the word, not the flu,' by using #FluFreeFlorida on social media.
-

Floridians should be immunized to prevent severe illness and to keep the health care system from being overwhelmed with both COVID-19 and flu cases.

get your
FLU SHOT
today!




#FluFreeFlorida

- Are you having trouble paying your FPL bill because of COVID-19? You may qualify for local, state, and/or federal financial assistance, which has increased significantly due to the pandemic. FPL is here to help. All it takes is a phone call. FPL will work closely with you to do everything to

avoid turning lights off for nonpayment, which is and has always been a last resort. Call FPL directly at 800-226-3545.

You are NOT alone

The COVID-19 crisis is a stressful and trying time for everyone. It is important to know these resources and share them with others.



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-422-4453
www.childhelp.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233
thehotline.org

Crisis Text Line

text HOME to 741741
www.crisistextline.org

Palm Beach County Services

Schedule a Telemedicine appointment by calling (561) 233-4460

211 Palm Beach and Coast Helpline

Dial 211 from your phone with a trained mental health professional
211palmbeach.org

Office of State Senator
Proudly serving





Contact my office:

5301 North Federal Hwy, Suite 135
Boca Raton, FL 33487