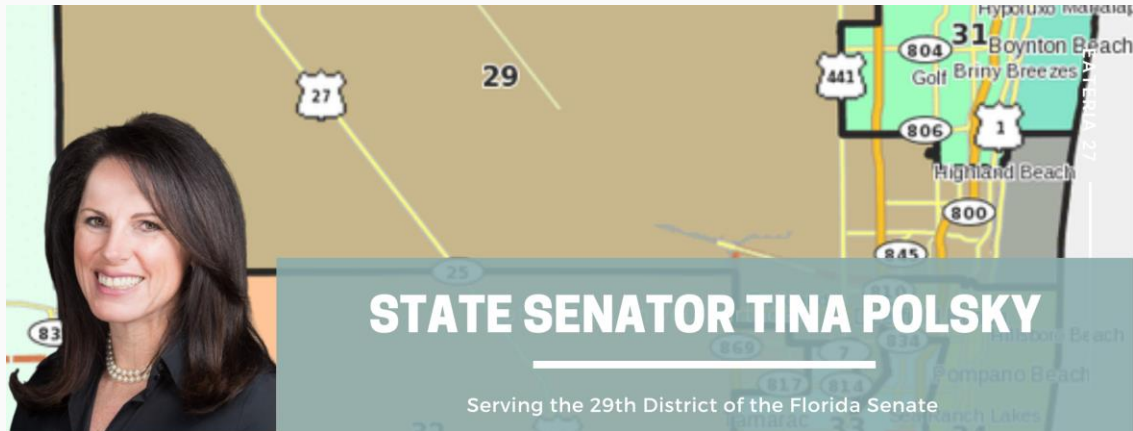


[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear

Friends,

I know that this has been an extremely frustrating time for so many.

As the vaccination administration gets ramped up, my staff and I are doing our best to keep you informed of how to get your vaccine. Currently, the systems are overwhelmed with people looking to get vaccinated, and the counties are doing their best to vaccinate as many people as possible with the limited amounts of vaccination coming from the state.

I am also aware that many of you are struggling with your unemployment claims. The CARES Act ultimately expired prior to the signing of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. The Department of Economic Opportunity is currently working with the Federal Department of Labor to ensure that programs are properly implemented. As soon as I receive any update from DEO about this I will make sure that you get that 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

- Governor DeSantis has announced the State's Vaccination Prioritization for the COVID-19 Vaccination. During the first phase of vaccine administration, all providers administering any COVID-19 vaccine shall only vaccinate the following populations:
 - Long-term care facility residents and staff
 - Persons 65 years of age and older
 - Health care personnel with direct patient contact
 - Hospitals may also vaccinate persons who they deem to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19
- For more information about the Vaccine, you can visit the Florida Department of Health's [Vaccine Information Page](#) and [FAQ](#) page.
 - You can also reach the State's COVID-19 24 Hour Hotline at (866) 779-6121 or text FLCOVID19 to 888777 from your mobile device.

Unemployment Assistance

- DEO will continue to waive the work search, work registration, and waiting week requirements for claimants through February 27, 2021. For additional Reemployment Assistance resources, visit <https://bddy.me/3si4J2h>
-

Palm Beach County COVID-19 Announcements

- Seniors, aged 65 or older, can request a Vaccination Appointment through the Palm Beach County Health Department by sending an email to CHD50Feedback@flhealth.gov. Your email must include your **name, phone number, and date of birth**. Please only send your email once as multiple emails only clog up the system and will not move you up in the line. There is no other format by which to request an appointment at this time.
 - Please note that you may not get an immediate email response to your request. Some receive an auto-reply and some do not (you are still in the queue even if you don't get the auto-reply). The Health Department is scheduling appointments in the order that they are received, but can only schedule appointments based on the number of vaccines that the county receives from the State and it could be quite a while until you hear back. Currently, the county is vaccinating about 500 people per day which includes seniors and healthcare workers.
 - The county has created a [Vaccine FAQ](#) which can help address some of the questions that you may have about the COVID-19 Vaccine and its distribution in PBC.
 - Additional updates on vaccine distribution will be communicated through the Department of Health's website, palmbeach.floridahealth.gov, Twitter account [@HealthyFLPBC](https://twitter.com/HealthyFLPBC), and local media.
 - Pursuant to direction from Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Department of Health and local health departments are responsible for receipt and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine on behalf of the State. Initial priorities for distribution were recently redefined in the Governor's Executive Order 20-315: health care personnel; individuals 65 years of age and older; and long-term care facility residents and staff.
 - County staff are working closely with the Department of Health Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach
-

County to complete the strategies for our local efforts to distribute the vaccine in accordance with the Governor's priorities. Our local efforts will be in addition to the direct rollouts of the vaccine by the State of Florida or direct deliveries by federal agencies or contractors. Our strategies will include designated PODs (points of distribution) at both fixed and mobile locations that will be accessible by walk-up and/or drive-up. The plans for these operations are being finalized with incremental startups expected early in January.

- Details of the local distribution plans are still being worked out and the timing of operations is dependent upon the supply and distribution of the vaccine by the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and the County Health Department. Local distribution plans do not include nursing homes and long-term care facilities which are being handled at the federal and state level. Additional announcements specific to public distribution within the County will be forthcoming from the County Health Department and the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management.

County Updates

- The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, through its Community Services Department (CSD), will add \$500 to all approved CARES Act food applications to help those impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. No action is needed from approved clients.
 - Food assistance was based on household size. The new amounts including the additional funds are listed below:
 - 1-2 household members: \$900
 - 3-4 household members: \$1,300
 - 5 or more household members: \$1,500
 - For more information, call the CSD's Contact Center at (561) 355-4792.
-

- Palm Beach County's Mandatory Mask Ordinance has been extended through January 20, 2021.
- 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.

School District Announcements

- The School District has opened the 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

- **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. **Appointments are no longer necessary, tests will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis, and hours of operation have been expanded to 8:00 am to 4:00 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.
- **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 is 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
- **Brumback Primary Care Clinic Delray Beach:** This is a walk-up site, and appointments recommended. Testing is conducted Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm. Testing is available to anyone regardless of age or symptoms. The site is located at 225 S. Congress Ave, Delray Beach, 33445, and can call 561-642-1000 for an appointment.
- **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

- Memorial Healthcare System continues to expand its COVID-19 vaccination program. They are now extending vaccines to seniors 65 and older, providing Pfizer BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine by appointment only. Memorial is not accepting appointments for people younger than 65 with an underlying condition or who are immunocompromised at this time. You can schedule an appointment at <https://mychart.mhs.net/> or with their phone registration system, (954) 276-4340. For more information about Memorial's vaccination process, you can click [here](#).
- Broward Health has a new vaccine appointment site. You fill out the form, [here](#), and someone from Broward Health should call you within 48 hours. Please note, this site does not appear to work on phones, but works well on the computer, but not on my phone.
 - Please note, there may not be any appointments available, but check the site frequently, as new appointments open can open

up.

County Updates

- Broward County Transit service continues to operate at a reduced service level, Monday through Saturdays, with normally scheduled service on Sundays.
 - 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.

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.
 - **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 the Florida Department of Health, in collaboration with the 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.
-

- **Florida Panthers Ice Den:** The walk-up testing site is open every day 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/in-home 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 fill.net/coronavirus for more information.

Municipal Announcements

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

Other Important Announcements

- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Treasury Department, announced the **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** has
-

re-opened as of yesterday morning. New borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers will have access to capital from community financial institutions who were able to make [First Draw PPP Loans](#), which started earlier this week, and [Second Draw PPP Loans](#) on today, January 13th, and participating lenders thereafter. The current round of PPP authorizes \$284 billion toward job retention, certain other expenses, and allowing certain existing PPP borrowers to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan through March 31, 2021.

- **Key PPP updates include:**

- PPP borrowers can set their covered period to be any length between 8 and 24 weeks to best meet their business needs;
 - PPP loans will cover additional expenses, including operations expenditures, property damage costs, supplier costs, and worker protection expenditures;
 - The Program's eligibility is expanded to include 501(c)(6)s, housing cooperatives, and direct marketing organizations;
 - The PPP provides greater flexibility for seasonal employees;
 - Certain existing PPP borrowers can request to modify their First Draw PPP Loan amount; and
 - Certain existing PPP borrowers are now eligible to apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan.
-

FPL EXPANDS COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS WITH BILL CREDITS

On Monday, January 4th, the Florida Power & Light Company is accepting applications for its new Main Street Recovery Credit Program, offering credits to qualifying small businesses that have been impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Establishments in FPL's service area that are eligible to apply for the program include:



New small businesses



Small businesses that were inactive for at least six consecutive months after March 2020



Existing small businesses operating in federally designated Opportunity Zones in FPL's service area

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
BROWARD.ORG/ECONDEV | 954-357-6400

-
- If you receive a call, a text, invite, an email, or even a knock at your door from someone who promises you early access to the COVID vaccine,

you should suspect a SCAM! You can report it [here](#).

Scam Alert

You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. That's a SCAM!



- 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.
- 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!

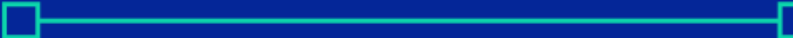


#FluFreeFlorida

- 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
(561) 443-

State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81 · 8177 Glades Rd Ste 209 · Boca Raton, FL 33434-4022 · USA