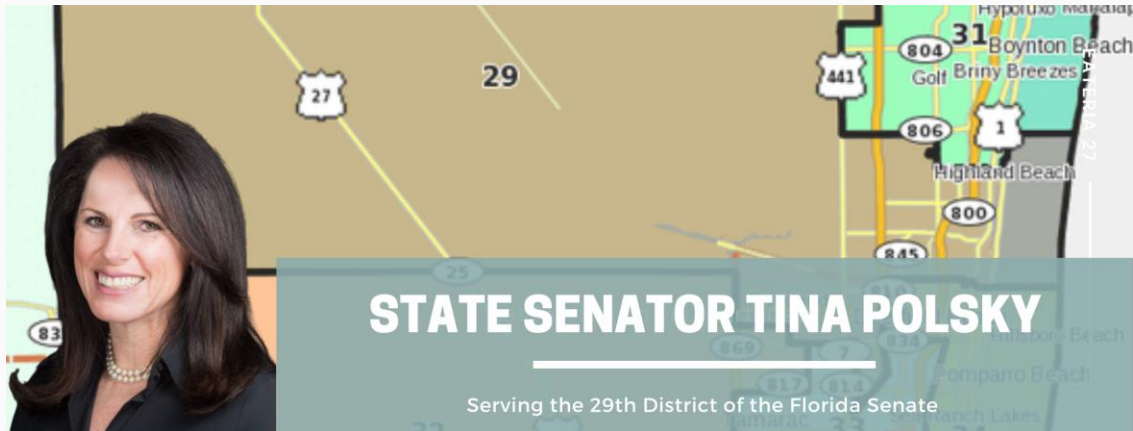


[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear

Friends,

My staff and I are doing our best to keep you informed about where you can receive your COVID vaccine (if you are eligible). It is important to note that at this moment the biggest obstacle is the small number of vaccines being sent to the state and county. The State Department of Health let us know that they are working with the Federal Government and they are hopeful that within the next couple of weeks we should begin receiving more vaccines. When additional vaccines are distributed to the State we will see the backlog of appointments ease. For the most up to date COVID Vaccination information please follow me on [Facebook](#), [@SenPolsky29](#).

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.

Stay Safe!

Senator Tina Polsky

COVID-19 Vaccination Announcements

- The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County has announced that it is not ready to utilize the statewide COVID-19 appointment system announced by the DOH state office in Tallahassee, FL. The website myvaccine.fl.gov is open and available for Palm Beach County residents, but DOH-Palm Beach is advising local residents not to use it.
- 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.
- At this time the Health Department in Palm Beach County is no longer accepting any request for appointments.

The CHD50feedback@flhealth.gov email has been deactivated. The Health Department in conjunction with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County will be working on setting appointments for those people who have submitted emails to the CHD email in the past couple of weeks. If you sent an appointment request to the CHD email you should receive an email or phone call from the Department of Health or the Health Care District to set up an appointment.

 - After all these requests have been fulfilled, future appointments will be made available directly through vaccination sites, and details for these registration systems will be provided at a later date.
- The image below is a legitimate email from Health Care District of PBC. The Health Care District is assisting Florida Health-PBC by contacting individuals 65 years & older who are on the waitlist after emailing a request for a vaccine appointment. Those receiving emails should have

requested an appointment through Florida Health.



The intent of this email is to invite you to register yourself for the COVID-19 vaccine with the Health Care District w assisting the Department of Health with the waiting list for people 65 and over.

You previously emailed the Department of Health requesting a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are still interested in rec first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine **click here** [vaccine.hcdpbc.org] **and confirm your interest. Please confirm each member of your family by submitting one form per person using a unique email address or phone nu each family member. This will place you in a virtual waiting room until vaccines become available.**

CLICK HERE [vaccine.hcdpbc.org]

- Palm Beach County has a [Vaccine Information Page](#) as well as a [Vaccine FAQ](#) that 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.
- The Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) is now included in the new State COVID-19 vaccine appointment scheduling system. Appointments for DOH-Broward COVID-19 vaccination sites can be scheduled using the system starting immediately. Seniors ages 65 and older, and frontline healthcare workers, can call (866) 201-6313 to request an appointment. For those requiring TTY access, the phone number is (833) 476-1526.
 - When people call the appointment number, they will be asked through an automated system to enter information using their telephone keypad. Live agents will call people back to make appointments until all current appointments are filled.
 - **Second Doses:**
 - People who receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at DOH-Broward sites through this new appointment system

will be asked to schedule their second dose through this new system.

- People who received their first dose of vaccine at a DOH-Broward site without making an appointment in this new appointment system do not need to make an appointment for their second dose. They should return to the same site on the date written on their vaccination card at the same time as they arrived for their first dose. Other than these individuals receiving their second dose, no one will be served without an appointment.
- **Publix Pharmacies** We have been notified that they will open up additional appointments at 7:00 am this Friday. Please check [Publix's Vaccine Site](#) for more information and to book your appointment when they are available.
 - Here are some tips for getting through the Publix website:
 - Have at least 5 pages up before 7:00 am, and DO NOT REFRESH
 - They will let you in and start
 - Go down the page as quick as you can and do not select yes for medicare or Publix employee
 - For area, select an area that may be less busy, so farther down the selection area
 - For the day, select the latest one
 - For the time, select the latest one
 - Quickly scroll to the bottom and check the two boxes
 - If all goes well, you'll be in
 - If it locks up, go to your next tab and start again
- Many people are having success getting appointments at the **Hard Rock Stadium** (Miami Gardens). To schedule an appointment at the Hard Rock you can call, 786-629-5752, 800-581-5123, or 888-499-0840 to set an appointment. Please note, you will need to return to this location to receive your second dose.
- **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](#).

- State Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees, M.D. issued a [Florida Department of Health Public Health Advisory](#) on January 21, 2021, prioritizing Florida residents for receiving the vaccine in Florida. Prior to providing the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to an intended recipient, each vaccine provider in Florida should ensure the recipient of the vaccine is either a) a resident of Florida or b) an individual present in Florida for the purpose of providing health care services involving direct contact with patients. Residency requirements are defined in [Florida Statutes 381.986\(5\)\(b\)](#) and do provide some accommodation for seasonal residents. Individuals who received the first dose before the Public Health Advisory will receive a second dose.

State COVID-19 Announcements

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>
 - Attention PUA Claimants! Due to recent federal requirements, it is now required to upload employment documentation to CONNECT in order to continue receiving PUA benefits. For more information, visit <https://t.co/Dzq1tAA6PC?amp=1>.
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Palm Beach County COVID-19 Announcements

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 February 19, 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.
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- 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/Covid-Dashboard [[palmbeachschools.org](https://PalmBeachSchools.org/Covid-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 \[r20.rs6.net\]](https://www.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**, now closed for testing.
- **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
- **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 4:00 pm.

- 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.

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

- Check the [Business Complaint Tracker](#) to see if the businesses you wish to patronize are following the rules. You can report violations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting the website or mobile app [MyBroward.Broward.org](#). Select “Request for Service,” enter the location of the violation, and select “COVID-19 Business Complaints” as the Type of Issue. You can also call the Broward County Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000, Monday through Friday, 8AM to 6PM, Saturday and Sunday, 8AM to Noon.

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

- **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 4:00 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.
- **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:** The test collection site at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) is located in Terminal 3, pre-security, on the lower level near baggage claim. Follow directional signage. The site is open to consumers that can provide proof of travel plans to or from FLL on [any airline](#) – e.g. valid airline ticket, boarding pass or confirmed (paid) flight itinerary.
 - There is a fee for testing at this site: \$106 for a PCR test; \$74 for a rapid (antigen) test. Credit and debit cards are accepted with a touch-free transaction and email receipt. Next-day results are available for PCR tests done before 4:00 pm; tests after 4:00 pm will have results within 48 hours.
 - Normal operating hours are 7:00 am-9:00 pm daily. This site is operated in partnership with [Nomi Health](#), [Spirit Airlines](#), and Broward County Aviation Department. Appointments are required; for more information and to register, visit [Nomi Health's FLL weblink](#). However, walk-ups may be accepted if no appointments are waiting for service.

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

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- 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!



- 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

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) 443-8170