

From the desk of Vice Mayor Weinroth

COVID-19 Vaccination Updated...

Palm Beach County has been a statewide leader in distributing vaccinations.

The county recently released a color-coded county map displaying vaccination rates by ZIP code.

Some areas show more than 85 percent of people age 65+ have been vaccinated.

It also shows that a vast majority of South County seniors have been fully vaccinated.

Nowhere in the county is the vaccination rate lower than 25 percent.

The Palm Beach County Health Care District is scheduling online appointments at <https://www.hcdpbc.org/>. Seniors without internet access can call 561-804-4115 to schedule.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management has a program to administer vaccinations for homebound seniors. To book an appointment, email HomeboundVaccine@em.myflorida.com. At this time, no phone calls for appointments are being accepted.

Florida currently has 850 different variants of COVID-19, the most of any state. Statewide, five people with the variant have died. All were hospitalized and none had any travel history. As of this writing, three variants of COVID-19 are present in Palm Beach County with 75 active variant cases.

Consequently, the mandatory facial covering order in Palm Beach County has been extended to mid-April, and residents are still urged to continue avoiding closed spaces, crowded places, and confined spaces. Even if you receive a vaccine, please take the necessary precautions.

To receive up-to-date information from our office on vaccines locations/maps, **age eligibility** and other important information, please send me an email at rweinroth@pbcgov.org and we will add you to the list.

American Rescue Plan

Palm Beach County will receive over \$290 million from the American Rescue Plan. The county will prioritize small businesses, food relief, testing, vaccinations, broadband infrastructure and grants for nonprofits, and other industries impacted by the pandemic.

These federal funds will also help to address shortfalls in revenue-related government services such as water and sewer.

Unlike the CARES Act, our larger municipalities such as West Palm Beach, Boca Raton and Delray Beach will receive separate federal allocations.

Once county officials receive the treasury department's guidelines, the Board of County Commissioners will collaborate with county staff to detail a comprehensive spending plan.

Unemployment rates dropping

The pandemic's grip on our economy continues to loosen the County's unemployment rate that dipped to 4.8 percent, compared to 6.8 percent nationally.

Palm Beach County witnessed jobs in Professional and Business Services grow faster than statewide at +3 percent. Consequently, two thirds of our region's jobs have been recovered since the height of the economic shutdown last year.

CareerSource Palm Beach County, a local nonprofit leading county workforce development, has amassed over 2,000 area job openings and is actively recruiting for applicants through virtual job fairs.

At the same time, the county's Business Development Board will soon be able to announce several new projects that will open thousands of new good paying employment opportunities to our residents.

If you need any assistance, please contact our office at 561-355-2204 and/or email me at rweinroth@pbcgov.org. Stay safe and healthy.