

From the desk of Vice Mayor Weinroth

Vaccine update

Palm Beach County continues to receive a robust flow of Moderna and Pfizer shipments, and approximately 5,500 people are receiving vaccinations daily. To date, over 50 percent of the county's population ages 50 plus and 80 percent of seniors (65 plus) have been vaccinated. In order to eradicate the virus, over 80 percent of the population needs to be vaccinated.

Currently, the primary focus is vaccinating everyone between the ages of 18 to 44 year olds since this group has the highest percentage of positive COVID-19 cases and is transmitting it to others. The majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations are people between the ages of 25 to 34.

Moreover, medical experts are reporting individuals in this age group are experiencing serious debilitating long-term effects of the virus. Consequently, in order to end this virus and avoid dangerous long-term side effects, young adults are urged to get the vaccination.

What to do with your vaccination card

When you receive your COVID-19 vaccine card, take a picture of both sides to have a record of it. Don't take a selfie with your card and post it online since it could result in identify theft. Also, don't laminate the card; future booster shots may need to be recorded.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccine locations and other resources, visit <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus/Pages/default.aspx>.

Skip the roads, ride a trail

Bicyclists and pedestrians make up only two percent of the roadway users in Palm Beach County, but they accounted for 30 percent of all transportation-related fatalities between 2018 and 2020.

Unfortunately, what should be an activity that supports well-being and health has too often resulted in injury or death. One of the beautiful things about our county is that it offers more than 200 miles of designated bicycling facilities where you won't have to fret about cars on the roadways.

Skip the roads and take a ride at one of these parks that offer miles of bicycle paths:

- Pondhawk Natural Area
- Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park
- El Rio Trail
- American Homes Park

For more information on safe places to cycle visit
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/parks/Amenities/Bicycling.aspx>

Start preparing now for hurricane season

We urge everyone to take hurricane season seriously, and secure your homes, and make sure you have the necessary supplies.

All major cutting of vegetation (i.e. tree removal) should be completed long before June 1st, the beginning of hurricane season. We strongly recommend you do all major cutting/tree removal sooner rather than later.

Some important tips are:

- Arrange to cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact buildings.
- Have your foliage thinned so wind can flow freely through branches, decreasing the chance that trees/plants will be uprooted.
- Clean your yard of any items that could pose a danger to you or your neighbors in hurricane-force winds such as old lumber, broken lawn furniture, etc. and place curbside on your bulk waste collection day.

Emergency officials advise that residents should be prepared to survive on their own for at least 72 hours. Supplies sell out fast once a storm has been forecast, so it is imperative to be prepared, especially for a power outage.

There are multiple emergency/hurricane resources such as:

- PBC DART (App) - provides vital hurricane awareness information.
- ALERTPBC - Sign up to receive emergency notifications via phone calls, text messaging, and email.
- Know Your Zone – to look up your hurricane evacuation zone

To download the PBC Dart app or access the other hurricane resources shown above, visit the county's Emergency Management website at
<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Hurricane.aspx>.