

March 14, 2021

Last Tuesday, the city of Palm Beach Gardens had an election to fill the seat on the city council vacated by Maria Marino. Marcie Tinsley won the election and will serve the final year of Maria's term that will expire in April, 2022. Thank you to all who took the time to vote.

As of March 13, 2021, **4,204,186 Floridians** have been vaccinated with **1,880,820** receiving their first dose and **2,323,366** receiving their second dose. Additionally, **76,740** Floridians have received a single shot vaccine (the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). **In Palm Beach county, 117,357** have received their first dose and **222,294** receiving their second dose. **3,414** Palm Beach county residents received a one-dose vaccine. This data comes from the floridahealthcovid19.gov website.

Below is the latest information regarding vaccine distribution in Palm Beach County

The **Health Care District of Palm Beach County** has expanded COVID-19 vaccination appointment requests to adults 60 years and older and encourages all eligible individuals to complete the request form at the Health Care District's website, <http://vaccine.hcdpbc.org/>. Those eligible to be vaccinated beginning Monday, March 15, 2021 per Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 21-62 include:

- Persons 60 years of age and older;
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact;
- K-12 school employees 50 years of age and older;
- Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of age and older;
- Firefighters 50 years of age and older; and
- Persons deemed extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 as determined by a physician who provides an attestation that the patient meets the defined eligibility criteria outlined in this [Department of Health form](#).

The **Burns Road Recreation Center** located at 4404 Burns Road continues to provide vaccinations with a capacity of 1500 vaccinations per day. Appointments are required and can be made at vaccine.pbchcd.org. The city will not directly provide additional vaccines at this time and any vaccines provided in the city will be in coordination with the PBC HCD and Palm Beach county or any Publix locations..

Mass vaccinations – The Palm Beach County Health Care District has set up three locations in the county, including the South Florida fairgrounds in West Palm Beach and the South County Civic Center in Delray, along with the location on Burns Road. The 22,000-square-foot, air-conditioned tent facility at the fairgrounds is capable of handling 7,000 residents per day. There are 24 vaccination stations and self-service kiosks inside.

Stores –Winn-Dixie pharmacies: One location in Lake Worth Beach.

Walmart stores: None in Palm Beach county.

CVS: One location in West Palm Beach.

Walgreens: One location in Riviera Beach.

Publix Pharmacies continue to administer vaccines. You can make an appointment at <https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine>.

Palm Beach County continues to **require masks** for all indoor activities and outdoor gatherings where social distancing is not possible. The county extended the mask order and the COVID-19 state of emergency until **March 19, 2021**. Per the Governor's orders, law enforcement can no longer enforce or fine individuals or businesses who refuse to comply.

To date, the **daily positivity rate** in Palm Beach county ranged from 5.03% to 6.68% (lower) with the state's daily positivity rate ranging from 4.87% to 5.83% (lower) this past week. **Daily positive cases** ranged from 257 to 445 (lower) in Palm Beach county and 3,798 to 5,134 (lower) in the state of Florida. The **number of deaths** in the state ranges from 0 to 19 deaths per day over the past week. As I noted, the death rate lags on the state website. Reviewing the number of deaths from 03/01/21-03/07/21, the daily number of deaths is reported to be 31-57 per day with a high of 135 deaths in one day since 02/11/21 (lower).

The **Florida Department of Health's** website continues to report the numbers of cases and deaths related to the COVID-19 virus. Visit <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/#latest-stats> for the latest updates.

Currently:

33418: 2572 cases (+52), 33412: 961cases (+25) and 33410: 2711 (+53) cases. The increase in positive rates in our three zip codes is *lower* compared to last week.

As of 03/13/21, the Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue have had 323 potential COVID-19 encounters in our city since March 10, 2020 with 4 calls reported since 03/07/21.

For a third consecutive week, there were no **nursing homes**, independent and/or assisted living facilities in our city with any **positive cases** of COVID-19. According to the state website, there remains **35 reported COVID-related deaths** within the 9 facilities in the city since the onset of the pandemic. The state reports COVID-related deaths on a weekly basis. As noted, the reported deaths are often not reported until sometime later.

Both **Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Jupiter Medical Center** have a combined **24** COVID-19 confirmed cases **(-3)** and **34** deaths **(no change)** between the two hospitals over the past week. PBGMC reports 3 ICU beds available with JMC reporting 9 ICU beds. Keep in mind this does not mean all ICU beds have COVID patients.

Contact the Health Care District's testing hotline is (561) 642-1000 for more information or visit <http://pbcgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e512bab938b45a4b63275de6536302e> for an up-to-date list of **testing locations** throughout the county. In all testing sites, both PCR and RAPID tests are available without an appointment however the PCR tests (which are more accurate) may require an appointment at some locations. View the link for more information.

The latest **Brightline/All Aboard Florida** rail crossing schedule is as follows although it is subject to change:

Lighthouse Dr –	03/12/2021 (at 6:00 pm) to 03/21/2021
Burns Road –	03/23/2021 to 04/01/2021
Kyoto Gardens –	04/27/2021 to 05/16/2021

Please register to receive the city's emails at www.pbgfl.com for the latest information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Marciano, council member