

May 17, 2021

As of May 16, 2021, **9,577,875 Floridians** have been vaccinated with **2,023,060** receiving their first dose and **7,554,815** receiving their second dose. Additionally, **683,220** Floridians have received a single shot vaccine (the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). **In Palm Beach county, 143,205** have received their first dose and **556,522** received their second dose. **47,824** Palm Beach county residents received a one-dose vaccine.

Although the number of Floridians receiving vaccinations continues to increase, the rate of increase is lessening, and the percentage of Floridians and residents of Palm Beach remains less than 50%.

Our entire family has been vaccinated. The vaccines are safe and extremely effective.

REMEMBER, there are 2 reasons to get vaccinated. First, we don't want people to get sick and possibly need hospital care or even death. Second, from an epidemiological standpoint, until 70% of people are immune to a disease, a virus like COVID-19 can linger in society as there remains enough hosts (people) to infect. The longer a virus lingers, the more likely a mutation can develop. This increases the risk that a world with COVID-19 remains relevant and can continue to impact our daily lives. So please get vaccinated as this is the most effective way to reduce infections.

You can use the [vaccine finder](#) to find a site near you. As a reminder, those that are eligible for a vaccine include:

- All persons 18 years of age and older;
- Reminder that the **Pfizer** vaccine is available for those 12 and up.

The **Palm Beach County Health Care District** will be closing the three designated vaccination centers in favor of a more localized vaccination effort. These centers will be closing by the end of May and first doses will no longer be scheduled or provided at these locations.

- the **South Florida fairgrounds** in West Palm Beach
- the **South County Civic Center** in Delray,
- the **Burns Road Recreation Center** in Palm Beach Gardens.

Stores – Many are offering walk-up services.

Winn-Dixie pharmacies: Visit <https://www.winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine>

Walmart stores: None in Palm Beach county.

CVS: Visit www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine for appointments.

Walgreens: Visit www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp

Publix Pharmacies Visit <https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine>.

Homebound Seniors: Visit HomeboundVaccine@em.myflorida.com

Palm Beach County has lifted the mask mandate for all indoor and outdoor except in all government buildings. Masks are optional for those who have received a vaccine.

To date, the **daily positivity rate** in Palm Beach county ranged from 3.05% to 4.14% (lower) with the state's daily positivity rate ranging from 4.14% to 4.52% (lower) this past week. **Daily positive cases** ranged from 169 to 286 (lower) in Palm Beach county and 2,488 to 4,078 (lower) in the state of Florida. The **number of deaths** in the state ranges from 0 to 9 deaths per day over the past week. As I noted, the death rate lags on the state website. Reviewing the number of deaths from 05/03/21-05/10/21, the daily number of deaths is reported to be 15-31 per day with a high of 61 deaths in one day since 04/13/21 (similar).

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: 2995 cases (+26), 33412: 1163 cases (+13) and 33410: 3196 (+24) cases. The increase in positive rates in our three zip codes is lower compared to last week. This is the third consecutive week of lower rates in our three zip codes.

As of 05/15/21, the Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue have had 348 potential COVID-19 encounters in our city since March 10, 2020 with 1 call reported since 05/10/21.

There are **no positive cases** in any **nursing home**, independent and/or assisted living facilities in our city. According to the state website, there are **53 reported COVID-related deaths** within the 9 facilities in the city since the onset of the pandemic. 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 **21** COVID-19 confirmed cases **(-8)** and **38** deaths **(no change)** between the two hospitals over the past week. PBGMC reports 5 ICU beds available with JMC reporting 6 ICU beds. Keep in mind this does not mean all ICU beds have COVID patients.

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES HAVE CONTINUED TO DECREASE THROUGHOUT OUR AREA. HOSPITALIZATIONS HAVE ALSO DECREASED AT OUR LOCAL HOSPITALS. PLEASE GET VACCINATED AS THIS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO PREVENT GETTING THE VIRUS AND TO HELP FURTHER SPREAD.

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:

Kyoto Gardens – 04/26/2021 to 05/16/2021

The last **city council meeting on Thursday May 6, 2021** included extensive discussion about the proposed traffic signal at the intersection of Northlake Blvd. and Bayhill Estates. The city and county have engaged in productive discussions this past week and we are confident a resolution will be reached.

I forgot to mention the expected improvement to the **Post Office** on Fairchild Drive in Palm Beach Gardens. After productive discussions with our Congressman and the USPS, the USPS has accepted responsibility for improved and regular maintenance of the facility. You may have noticed new mulch, weeding of the fences and pressure cleaning of the building. Repairs to the irrigation system have also been completed. Thank you to all of you who helped bring added attention to the matter.

The **PGA Corridor Association**, in conjunction with the city of Palm Beach Gardens presented the **State of the City** last week. Mayor Rachelle Litt and Candice Temple, the city's Public Media Relations Director did a great job highlighting current and future projects in our city. Visit www.pbgfl.com to see the presentation.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Marciano, council member