



**DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA**  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 8

May 29, 2020

Mayor Carlos Gimenez  
[Carlos.Gimenez@miamidade.gov](mailto:Carlos.Gimenez@miamidade.gov)

Dear Mayor Gimenez:

I remain deeply concerned by the failure of the state to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our elder and long-term care facilities. The string of news reports about the poor controls and lack of effective health screening at facilities like Fair Havens and now Salmos-23 highlight the alarming risk to those most vulnerable. I share your frustration that the state has not promptly identified outbreaks in nursing homes and Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) nor put adequate defenses in place, and now more than two months into the pandemic, the Florida Department of Health is still fumbling the response to stem the spread of this deadly virus in elder care facilities.

To continue to rely on the state to contain this deadly outbreak in our nursing homes will certainly lead to more untimely deaths and more families grieving the loss of their loved ones. Moreover, the refusal by the state to release information on the status of nursing homes with positive cases is alarming and unethical. The families of those in elder care, as well as the public, deserve to know this critical information.

As I have stated time and again, we know that testing and contact tracing are the single best tools to combat this virus and treat patients. After all these months, the State still has not mandated testing for nursing home and ALF staff. I would urge you to do whatever you can to require the regular testing of all nursing home and ALF workers and proper isolation of staff and patients exposed to the virus. Above all, we need more clear data on infections and hospitalizations emanating from these facilities, including a concise plan on how they will prevent the spread of this virus as the impacts are deadly for our most fragile residents.

In the absence of state action, it is up to us to put in place these necessary measures that protect the health, safety and welfare of our most vulnerable residents. I urge you to take charge and work with our nursing homes and ALFs to stabilize the crisis locally.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Daniella Levine Cava  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District 8

CC: Governor Ron DeSantis  
Carlos Migoya, CEO, Jackson Health Systems  
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners