

**From:** [Daniella Levine Cava, County Mayor](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** COVID isn't over – we all need to do our part  
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Dear Miami-Dade County employees,

Since the first day I took office in November 2020, my top priority has been to protect the lives and livelihoods of Miami-Dade County residents throughout this pandemic. I'm extremely proud of the great progress we've made in tackling this virus, thanks in large part to the extraordinary work and service of Miami-Dade County first responders and employees.

Miami-Dade's vaccination rate is now over 75% according to the Florida Department of Health – a huge milestone that is a key reason our positivity is not as high as other parts of the state.

But the pandemic is not over. With new, more contagious, and more dangerous COVID variants – especially the Delta variant – driving up cases and hospitalizations, it is more critical than ever that those who are not vaccinated get the shot as soon as possible.

The facts are abundantly clear: over 90% of hospitalized COVID patients across Jackson Health System are unvaccinated. The Delta variant is of serious concern especially in unvaccinated people and children under the age of 12 as no vaccine is yet available for that age group. It is very dangerous for young people, as we see a growing number of otherwise perfectly healthy patients under the age of 50 hospitalized with worsening symptoms. Tragically, the vast majority of recent COVID cases requiring hospitalization and those resulting in death were preventable.

The COVID vaccines are safe and effective. In fact, [new research out this week](#) shows that two of the most widely available vaccines are nearly as effective against the Delta variant as against the original dominant strain of the virus.

For nearly a year and a half, our residents and businesses made enormous sacrifices to keep our community safe. Miami-Dade County first responders and frontline healthcare workers put their lives on the line time and time again. We have already lost too many lives – together, let's ensure we don't needlessly lose any more of our loved ones. [Find a vaccine site near you](#) and get vaccinated if you haven't already to protect yourself, your family, and our community.

**In addition to getting the shot, we can all help to prevent the spread of COVID variants by getting back to basics and following the key steps that we know work. In close consultation with our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Peter Paige, we have outlined an updated set of recommended COVID workplace precautions to prevent the spread of the virus:**

- We strongly encourage staff to get vaccinated
- We strongly recommend the use of masks in County facilities

- We encourage you to shift to Zoom meetings whenever possible
- Socially distance and mask up for in-person meetings to the extent possible
- Stay home if you are sick
- If you are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#), isolate and get tested even if you're fully vaccinated
- Continue washing your hands and sanitizing frequently

Working together we can keep Miami-Dade moving forward. Thank you for all you do each and every day to protect and serve this community that we all love so much.

Yours in service,  
Mayor Daniella