

From: [Daniella Levine Cava, County Mayor](#)
To:
Subject: New County COVID protocol
Date: Thursday, August 5, 2021 7:00:52 PM

Dear Miami-Dade County Employees,

Over the past nine months, Miami-Dade County has worked every day to protect the lives and livelihoods of our residents and employees and to make vaccines widely accessible throughout our community. These efforts have helped us to achieve a vaccination rate above both the state and national average – but the recent surge driven by the extremely contagious, dangerous Delta variant has made it clear that we are not yet out of the woods.

Over the last week we polled the county workforce with a voluntary, anonymous survey to ask about current vaccination status. We are proud to share that of those who took the survey (over 5,000 people total), over 83% of respondents indicated that they have taken the vaccine. While we recognize that a voluntary survey doesn't give a full picture of the entire workforce, and that those who are vaccinated are probably more likely to respond, we are proud that so many of you have taken the single best step toward ending this pandemic.

Today, we are taking a further step forward to ensure a safe, healthy workplace and to protect the public we serve by requiring weekly COVID testing of all Miami-Dade employees under my purview. Vaccinated employees will have the opportunity to opt out of testing. Exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. This initiative will go into effect the week of August 16 for non-bargaining unit employees, and we are currently working to develop a countywide set of protocols to roll this out to the county workforce under my purview. More details regarding this important initiative will be forthcoming.

We know that without vaccination, we can't hope to put this pandemic behind us. These protocols will ensure we are doing our part to maintain a safe, healthy workplace and to prevent the spread of COVID across the community.

I encourage you to reach out to your Department Personnel Representative (DPR) with any questions, and I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to serving the people of Miami-Dade even through this extremely challenging time.

With gratitude,

Mayor Daniella