

**From:** [Daniella Levine Cava, County Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Tackling the omicron variant head-on  
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Dear Miami-Dade County family,

It's been nearly two years since the start of this once-in-a-century pandemic, and each step of the way we have made enormous strides in our fight to protect ourselves and our recovering economy against COVID-19. I'm extremely proud of everyone across our community who has stepped up and done their part. Together, we have reached the highest vaccination rate in our state, well over the national average.

The truth is this: The global pandemic is not over, and the omicron variant has brought a recent surge in cases to our community. As cases continue to rise nationwide, it's as critical as ever that we all follow the key steps that we know slow the spread to protect ourselves and loved ones:

- Get vaccinated, and if you got your second dose six months or more ago, get your booster shot.
- Get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms or have been exposed.
- Wear your mask around large crowds or those you don't know to be vaccinated, and of course mask up when traveling through our airport or on transit as required by federal law.

We have come too far, and have made too much progress, to let our guard down now. Which is why we are taking a series of additional steps to make sure we are as prepared and proactive as possible during the holiday season:

- I signed an emergency order requiring hospitals to once again resume daily COVID reporting.
- To stay ahead of the data, we are sequencing for COVID variants at County testing sites as well as sampling wastewater.
- We are once again offering vaccinations for homebound residents. Homebound individuals 12 years of age or older can call 888-201-5490 or email [vaccinations@ilshealth.com](mailto:vaccinations@ilshealth.com) to schedule an appointment to receive the vaccine at home.
- We are bringing mobile vaccination trucks to underserved communities across Miami-Dade, as we continue our efforts to make sure no residents are left behind from accessing this life-saving vaccine.
- We are increasing monoclonal antibody treatment sites throughout the County.
- We're also laying the groundwork to offer the Pfizer antiviral pill at our County sites as soon as it's approved and available. This is an important new tool in our toolkit, as the most recent study by Pfizer shows the pill is nearly 90% effective in preventing hospitalization and death.

All together, this series of measures will help us tackle the latest increase in cases head-on and ensure Miami-Dade continues to lead the way in preparation and

protection.

To our County family, residents, and visitors: I wish you a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. Let's continue working together to keep ourselves and one another safe, so that we can enter the New Year stronger than ever.

With gratitude and hope,  
Mayor Daniella