

From: [Daniella Levine Cava, County Mayor](#)
Subject: Our BEST plan ahead to keep us safe from COVID-19
Date: Friday, February 25, 2022 3:03:49 PM

Dear Miami-Dade County family,

Two months ago, the Omicron variant surged in our community, reaching a record-breaking 7-day positivity rate of 35%.

But two months later, I'm proud to share that we've been on a steady decline and our positivity average is now at 5%, in addition to a significant decrease in hospitalizations.

This extraordinary news is a direct result of our community having the highest vaccination rate in the state and above the national average - and because of everyone who wore masks and took the proven steps to help stop the spread.

This enormous sacrifice from you and our entire community has made this moment possible, and for that, I thank you - and because of that, we can now enter a new phase on how we view and treat this pandemic.

In consultation with our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Peter Paige, today, I am updating our County's COVID guidelines.

Effective immediately, it is no longer required to wear a mask at Miami-Dade County facilities, and I am lifting all remaining county requirements affecting our hospital systems and county employees. I am also announcing a new forward-looking plan that reorients our public health strategy.

Our **BEST** Plan will focus on lessons learned from the last two years, continued readiness, and our commitment to keeping all residents and visitors safe now and in the future, from COVID-19.

B - Booster Shots

We'll do this by focusing on getting our community boosted and ensuring everyone has access to the shot – because the science is clear: Three doses of the vaccine are enough to protect most people from serious illness and death for a long time. So please, if you haven't yet, get your booster if you're eligible.

E - Education

We'll also work closely with our Miami-Dade Public School system to protect our children's education, so that they can remain safe in classrooms and have access to the vaccine, as eligibility expands.

S - Stay home if sick

We'll continue to urge everyone to stay home if they are sick, and we'll call on businesses to support their workers staying home when ill to help prevent the spread.

T - Test when exposed or feeling symptomatic

And we'll continue to make testing as accessible and convenient as possible for all our residents and visitors, including testing our wastewater and sequencing test samples to help monitor for new variants in order to stay ahead of the curve.

This plan aims to guide Miami-Dade County's proactive response to this virus moving forward, using the resources that will keep us healthy and protected, and our economy booming.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all YOU have done for our community. I couldn't be prouder to serve as your Mayor and to work alongside you in service to the place we all love.

With endless gratitude and renewed hope,
Mayor Daniella

[WATCH MY MESSAGE](#)