



Mayor Steve Geller

Broward County Commissioner, District 5

115 S Andrews Avenue, Room 413 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7005

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Via Email: Ron.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Re: Vaccination Priority List

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As Mayor of Broward County, I want to thank you and your Administration's efforts throughout this Pandemic. I also want to specifically thank Jared Moskowitz, Shane Strum, and Dr. Paula Thaqi for their dedication to the residents of Broward County. From the beginning stages of the Pandemic they have been instrumental in working with the County to build out the testing and vaccine distribution infrastructure. While there was a limited supply during the initial vaccine rollout, I am happy to see both the supply and the rate of vaccinations increase. As of the date of this letter, more than 211,000 Broward residents have now been vaccinated. While this is a good start, we have much more work to do.

When the vaccines first began to arrive in the State of Florida, the supply was extremely limited. That is why I was supportive of your decision to prioritize vaccinations for our most vulnerable residents – seniors over the age of 65, health care professionals with direct patient contact, long term care facility residents, and those persons under 65 who hospitals deem extremely vulnerable to Covid-19.

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It is estimated that there are 340,000 seniors in Broward County, and that only about 250,000 of them will want the vaccine when it is first available, a number that we need to all work together to increase. With the increasing number of vaccines available, it seems clear that within the next month we will have vaccinated everyone over 65 in Broward that currently wants to receive a vaccine. Therefore, I expect that you will be issuing a new Executive Order in the near future to expand the list of people eligible to receive the COVID vaccine.

When you issue your new Order, I am strongly requesting that you consider adding persons 55 and older, law enforcement personnel (and other first responders that have not yet received the vaccine), and teachers to the vaccine priority list. People over 55 have increased risk of bad results from exposure to COVID, all First Responders run the risk of contracting COVID while protecting us, and vaccinating teachers will help with a full return of children to our schools. This is not necessarily the exclusive list of people that you may wish to add.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and look forward to working with you in furthering our shared interest in vaccinating Floridians.

Sincerely,



Steve Geller

Broward County Mayor

CC: Shane Strum, Governor's Chief of Staff, via Email at Shane.Strum@eog.myflorida.com