



Good Morning!

Happy Valentines Day! It has been a productive week in Tallahassee. Next week, we will remain in Tallahassee for the last committee week before Legislative Session begins. I will continue to update my Facebook and Twitter daily so that you may be kept aware of Committee Meetings.

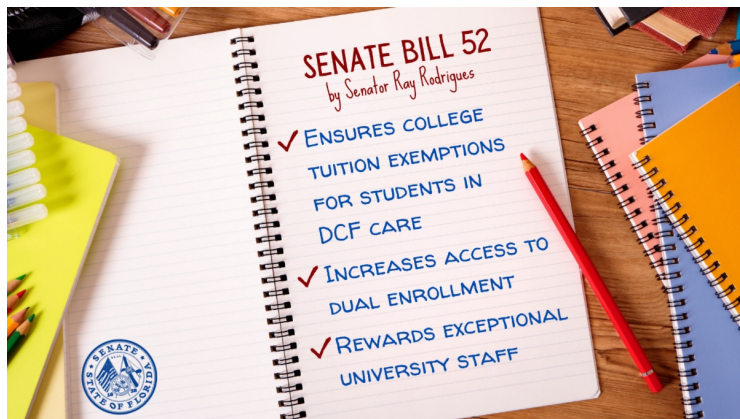
Please sign up for mobile alerts through your county, so you are informed of COVID-19 vaccine appointments as they are made available. Brevard County will be participating the statewide Sharecare program. Please visit myvaccine.fl.gov to pre-register for vaccine appointments and to be notified when appointments are available in your area.

If you live in Indian River County, you may join their new registration waitlist system by clicking [here](#). If you need assistance with signing up, you may call the County at 772-226-3900 and they will help you. Appointments are scheduled based on availability of the vaccine and the date an individual registers. Registrants will only be notified when doses of the vaccine have been received by the DOH in Indian River County and there is an available appointment.

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the Mayfield Minute. If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Committee Week 4 Update

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, advanced Senate Bill 52: Postsecondary Education. This legislation clarifies state laws to ensure students who turn 18 while in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a specified guardian are exempt from tuition and fees at Florida's postsecondary institutions.



Senate Bill 52 also increases access to dual enrollment for students in public, private, or virtual education settings by creating the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program, bolstering state funding of dual enrollment tuition and instructional material costs. Additionally, the legislation authorizes universities to create a bonus program for their best employees. This allows universities to reward exceptional employees without being required to consider across-the-board bonuses.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted favorably on Senate Bill 74: COVID-19-related Claims Against Health Care Providers. This legislation aims to ensure health care providers, who have done the right thing amidst continually changing and conflicting guidelines, are not threatened with frivolous lawsuits that hinder their ability to serve their patients.

The bill requires a plaintiff who files a COVID-19-related lawsuit to prove that a health care provider's conduct constituted gross negligence or intentional misconduct and establishes procedures to filter out claims that have insufficient factual support. The protections apply specifically to acts or omissions made in reliance upon government-issued health standards or guidance relating to COVID-19. Current law provides different procedures for negligence claims against nursing homes and assisted living facilities than for other types of health care providers, such as doctors and hospitals.

Additional Vaccine Sites

Governor DeSantis announced additional COVID-19 vaccination sites across the state of Florida through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. Walmart/Sam's Club, Publix Super Markets and Winn-Dixie pharmacies are now eligible to administer the vaccine. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program sites began offering COVID-19 vaccines on Friday, February 12 at 490 pharmacy locations across 52 counties.

For the first week of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, the state is expecting to receive 65,300 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Future allocations through this program will be announced as they become available.

These allocations are additional doses to the state's weekly allocations to supplement existing COVID-19 vaccination efforts. All locations listed will receive their vaccine doses directly from the federal government and the federal government determines allocations for each location.

Appointments are required at each location and can be made on the pharmacy's website. Designated websites for each location include:

- Publix – <https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida>
- Walmart and Sam's Club – <http://www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine> and <http://www.samsclub.com/covid>
- Winn-Dixie – <https://www.winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine>

District 17 Highlights

Trinity Fitness, Adaptive Training

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Trinity Fitness in Satellite Beach. While I was there The Lake Nona VA Medical Team came to observe their Adaptive Training Program and the impact it has on Veterans.

Trinity Fitness focuses on Adaptive Training to help embrace veterans, active duty, first responders, law enforcement and civilians that have physical and mental challenges. The goal of Adaptive Training is independence. It aims to give them the ability to go to any gym, anywhere, and "adapt" their disability(impairment) to any work out, alongside able body athletes. In turn, while nurturing their own well-being, fitness, daily function and self-

confidence, the Adaptive Athlete is positively impacting the able bodied athlete as well.

It was an honor to visit Trinity Fitness and learn about their services. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this type of training, please call their office at (321) 960-5594

AMONG THE MANGROVES

The City of Melbourne's Environmental Community Outreach Division and the Marine Resources Council have partnered in a series of free, 45-minute virtual field trips for children and the public.

The first session, "Among the Mangroves," will introduce participants to the wonders of one of Florida's most amazing ecosystems. Learn how to identify types of mangroves and why they are important, view the MRC's mangrove nursery, discuss restoration, and then see how mangroves are planted on the MRCs shoreline.

The program will end with a Q&A session and participants are encouraged to e-mail questions to MRC's Nicole Broquet at nicole@mrcirl.org by Feb. 17. Register at savetheirl.org to receive a Zoom link and login information. The virtual events will be livestreamed from different outdoor habitats at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 18, March 18 and April 15.

IRCSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Vero Beach High School's Billy Livings Field hosted the Mardi Gras-themed "Stars of the Year Gala" to announce the School District of Indian River County Teacher and Employee of the Year.

Teacher of the Year was awarded to Caitlin Harris, a social studies teacher at Storm Grove Middle School. Harris, a sixth-grade World Cultures teacher, will represent the school district in the State of Florida Teacher of the Year competition.

Rebecca O'Donnell, a digital integration specialist at Vero Beach High School, was named Employee of the Year.

COVID-19 has presented many challenges to our educators. I am proud to have so many outstanding members in our community who take on the task of educating our children.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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