



Good Morning!

I am pleased to announce that Florida has vaccinated more than 1 million seniors age 65 and older. Florida is currently leading the nation in vaccinating seniors. In addition to more than 1 million seniors vaccinated, the state is on track to have offered the COVID-19 vaccine to every resident and staff member in Florida's nearly 700 nursing homes and over 3,000 assisted living facilities by the end of January.

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, find more information below. If you live in Indian River County, please click [here](#) to sign up. If you need assistance with signing up, you may call the County at 772-226-3900 and they will help you. Indian River County will be moving to a new appointment reservation system with the capability of a waitlist. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

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!

Sharecare Statewide System

Today, the state announced the launch of a statewide preregistration system to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals 65 and older and frontline health care workers. Individuals can pre-register for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in their area by visiting myvaccine.fl.gov.

This website will allow individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to be proactively contacted when vaccine appointments are available through your local health department. On the site, residents can select their county and submit their contact information. Once appointments are available, individuals will be contacted by phone call, text or email and will be assisted in scheduling an appointment.

Vaccine supply remains limited and appointments may not be available immediately.

Additionally, as part of the statewide registration system, each county has a designated phone number that individuals can call and pre-register if they do not have Internet access. Please find the complete list of numbers by county [here](#). Whether a resident calls by phone or visits myvaccine.fl.gov, their place in line will be reserved when using the Sharecare software.

Committee Week 2 Update

It was a productive week in Tallahassee as Senators traveled the Capital to attend committee meetings. **The Senate Committee on Judiciary** passed Senate Bill 72: Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19, by Senator Jeff Brandes, which aims to shield businesses from fraudulent or opportunistic lawsuits related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Senate Bill 72



works to separate the serious and merited claims from the fraudulent and unfair claims brought against a Florida business. The legislation requires an affidavit from a physician attesting that the defendant caused the plaintiff's injuries or damages. It also requires the plaintiff to prove the defendant failed to make a good faith effort to adhere to safety guidelines and that the defendant's actions were grossly negligent.

Division of Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz updated the **Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response**, chaired by Senator Danny Burgess, on the state's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Director Moskowitz provided a week-by-week review of Florida's vaccine distribution and administration progress. The lack of vaccine supply from the federal government is currently the major impediment to vaccinating more Floridians, according to Director Moskowitz.

Next weeks committee schedule can be found by clicking [here](#). Once you follow that link you will also find information on where public testimony may be given.

"Florida Leads" Budget Proposal

Governor Ron DeSantis has announced his "Florida Leads" budget proposal for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. The total recommendation for the FY 2021-2022 budget is \$96.6 billion.

The budget recommends over \$1 billion in savings – including over \$400 million in administrative and operational efficiencies. The budget places \$6.6 billion in total reserves.

The Governor's recommended budget also includes \$65 million in tax relief for Florida families, including a \$56 million 8-day Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday and a \$9 million 10-day Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

The budget recommends allocating more than \$625 million for the environment. This includes over \$473 million for Everglades restoration, \$50 million for Springs restoration, \$145 million for targeted water quality improvements, \$40 million for alternative water supply and \$25 million to combat harmful algal blooms and red tide.

The proposed budget calls for the establishment of the Resilient Florida program which will provide \$1 billion over four years to provide grants to state and local government entities. It also includes \$82 million to protect Florida's waterbodies. This includes \$50 million for the Florida Forever Program and \$32 million for infrastructure improvements and resource management at state parks.

View the entire breakdown of the proposal, which includes education, economic development, and public safety priorities by clicking [here](#). Over the course of the upcoming Legislative Session, the Senate will take these recommendations into consideration and work with the House of Representatives and Governor DeSantis to pass a balanced budget while funding our state's critical needs and continuing to keep taxes low.

District 17 Highlights

Indian River County Publix Receives COVID-19 Vaccine

On Tuesday, the Governor announced that all Publix pharmacies in Indian River County will receive a limited number of vaccines. The vaccine will be available for:

- People ages 65 years and older.
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact.
- Residents and staff of long-term-care facilities.

Appointments cannot be made by calling Publix or the Publix pharmacy. In order to schedule an appointment, please visit the Publix pharmacy website. Appointments will only be made as vaccines become available.

Brevard Scholarship

Brevard Schools Foundation has announced that their annual scholarship opportunities for students graduating from Brevard Public Schools are now available.

Each year, with the support of many generous sponsors, Brevard Schools Foundation is able to provide scholarships to deserving students looking to achieve the dream of a post-secondary education. Scholarships range from \$250 to \$5,000. Some are multi-year awards. This year, 52 different scholarships are being offered totaling more than \$65,000.

To apply, students should go to the Brevard Schools Foundation website <http://brevardschoolsfoundation.org/programs/scholarships> or directly to the application site [Award Spring Scholarships](#).

Applications open Monday, February 1, 2021 and must be submitted by Monday, March 15, 2021. To learn more or to become a judge or supporter, you may call 321-633-1000 x 11756.

Brevard Teacher of the Year

On Thursday January 28, the Brevard Schools Foundation honored the school district's exceptional employees. The event was held virtually this year, due to the pandemic.

Karrie Hieber, a 12th grade English teacher at Cocoa High School was named the 2021 Brevard County Teacher of the Year. Hieber was selected from a pool of six finalists, nominated for their "inspiring commitment to education," said Janice Kershaw, the Brevard Schools Foundation's president and CEO.

The other finalists were:

- Christopher Bainbridge, social studies teacher at Titusville High School.
- Teresa Baggett-Hines, Title I teacher at Palm Bay Elementary.
- Brent Poole, physical education teacher at Challenger 7 Elementary.
- John Taylor, sixth grade teacher at Suntree Elementary.
- Jennifer Anne Zifer, AVID coordinator at Central Middle School.

District 17 is home to outstanding educators and I applaud all that they have done to adjust to the challenges of teaching our kids during a pandemic.



Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 409-2025
Staff: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)
[Dorrie Leeper](#)

Tallahassee Office

330 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5017

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970
Staff: [Jacob Dimond](#)
