

**From:** "Brian E. Keeley" <BrianK@baptisthealth.net>

**Date:** Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 12:39 PM

**To:** DG-BHSF Everyone <DG-BHSFEveryone@baptisthealth.net>, DG-BT Everyone Automated <DG-BTEveryoneAutomated@baptisthealth.net>, BRRH Everyone <BRRHEveryone@brrh.com>, BRRH-BocaCare All <BocaCareAll@brrh.com>

**Subject:** Baptist Health Vaccine Update

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the information about COVID-19 vaccine distribution is evolving rapidly, our system-wide vaccine planning group continues to set priorities and strategies in alignment with the Governor's executive order, which was issued on December 23. Our top priority remains the 18,000 eligible healthcare personnel with direct or indirect risk of exposure to COVID-19. To date, we have vaccinated approximately 7,000 frontline workers, including medical staff.

As we begin the second injection of vaccine in those that have received it, we are also continuing to focus on offering the vaccine to our employees and caregivers, including medical staff, who still wish to receive it, prioritizing those with the most risk for exposure to COVID-19. With a workforce of 28,000+ employees and medical staff spanning from the Florida Keys to Palm Beach, this is an enormous undertaking. Simultaneously, we are also initiating our plans to offer the vaccine to eligible, high-risk members of the Baptist Health community, patients who meet criteria and also to the community at large in the coming weeks.

A vaccine distribution of this magnitude is a very complex process, requiring a high degree of pharmacy expertise and skill and a coordinated effort at federal, state and local levels, including the ongoing supply of vaccines. We are working with state and local leaders as well as other organizations to identify and coordinate community vaccination access as quickly as possible.

The following are some immediate next steps in our vaccine process happening this week:

- With more vaccine supply anticipated from the State this week, we expect to ramp up our vaccination program to administer 1,700 vaccines a day.
- We are providing the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to eligible frontline caregivers, according to the vaccine protocol.
- On January 6, an additional vaccination site will open at Homestead Hospital, expanding access for eligible individuals. This is in addition to our current vaccine sites at the Hilton Miami Dadeland Hotel, Bethesda Hospital East and Boca Raton Regional Hospital.
- Through the Medical Staff offices, we will begin to offer the vaccine to personnel of BHSF-credentialed medical staff members. This includes any patient-facing or otherwise eligible caregivers and staff.
- In accordance with the Governor's mandate, our Physician Business Development teams will be reaching out to community physicians who do not have access to the vaccine, as well as their office staff.

Baptist Health's process is in full compliance with the Governor's mandate regarding the risk group priorities and categories:

- Health care personnel with direct patient contact

- All persons 65 years of age and older
- Patients deemed to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19

We know that there are many questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Mark Hauser, President of Medical Staff Affairs, discusses the science behind the vaccine and addresses myths and facts in [this video](#). Please take a moment to watch it.

We understand there is significant public anxiety and confusion around vaccine availability and distribution. The bottom line: Baptist Health is working at a breakneck speed to fast-track vaccines to all eligible frontline caregivers, members of the Baptist Health community who are 65 and older, and high-risk patients.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication as we navigate this urgent—and hopeful—next phase of Baptist Health’s response to the pandemic.



**Brian E. Keeley**

President and Chief Executive Officer

**Baptist Health South Florida**

6855 Red Road | Suite 600

Coral Gables, FL 33143

Direct: 786-662-7401 | Main: 786-662-7111

Fax: 786-662-7723

BrianK@baptisthealth.net | BaptistHealth.net