

**From:** Wendy Bringas <WendyB@baptisthealth.net> on behalf of Bo Boulenger <BoB@baptisthealth.net>

**Date:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 4:52 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:** COVID-19 Update- March 4, 2021

Dear Baptist Health Family,

We are approaching the one-year mark of being in an official pandemic. Throughout this extended healthcare crisis, we have encountered and overcome many challenges most of us could not have imagined. As healthcare workers, we have experienced firsthand how COVID-19 impacts entire families and makes our mission even more critical. As individuals we each have been affected differently, yet by nature of being part of Baptist Health we are connected by the work we do. When I think about the collective passion, dedication and endurance of our amazing team, I am overcome with gratitude and pride. You have helped so many people in need, and you have helped one another get through really tough times. Caring for people is our purpose, and you have taken it to the next level with the incredibly honorable work you have done throughout the past year.

Our work on the COVID-19 front continues, and thankfully there are positive signs of improvement. We have continued to see decreasing numbers of COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, which is certainly welcome news. We are discharging more patients with COVID-19 than we are admitting on most days. The daily number of newly reported COVID-19 cases has seen a dramatic decline nationally, as have the numbers of tests and hospitalizations. The rate of transmission in Florida continues to be below 1. We're encouraged by all of these indicators and are hopeful that they continue trending in a positive direction.

### **This Week's Numbers at a Glance**

- Currently, there are **228** individuals throughout our facilities who are COVID-19 positive or suspected to be positive, which is a decrease of approximately 13% from last week, and 25% from two weeks ago.
- We have discharged more than **12,500** patients who were treated for COVID-19.
- We have vaccinated more than **33,550** people including eligible employees, medical staff and eligible members of our community, with more than **30,700** of those having received the second dose of the vaccine.

### **Vaccine Update**

We currently have a very limited supply of vaccines from the state, and are providing vaccines for Baptist Health employees and medical staff members who have direct contact with patients and who work in patient care settings in [priority groups 1A and 1B](#). If you are in these groups and would like to receive a vaccine, please communicate with your [vaccine entity champion](#) as

soon as possible. A member of the vaccine team will then contact you to schedule your appointment. At this time, we are also reaching out to individuals who had appointments that were canceled to offer them the vaccine. These include people who are 65 years old and above, and those who are under 65 and determined by their physician to be medically vulnerable and at high risk for COVID-19. We are not taking additional community appointments right now due to supply constraints; but we hope to continue supporting the community vaccination effort, as supply allows.

Across the state, individuals who are age 65 and over and, individuals deemed medically vulnerable by a physician are also eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The Florida Department of Health recently released [this form](#), for people under 65 to verify eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination. The state's [vaccine locator tool](#) is a great resource to help find available vaccination locations. Additionally, the state is offering residents a way to pre-register for the vaccine and save their place in line as vaccines become available, by visiting <https://myvaccine.fl.gov>. Anyone who has not yet received a vaccine is encouraged to register on this site.

### **Supportive Resources for Employees & Physicians**

Feelings of stress and anxiety are common during these times and we want you to know that we are here to support you as we care for our community together. Our dedicated [Employee Support site](#) has a section on Emotional Support, which includes contact information to connect with Pastoral Care, LifeWorks Counselors (Aetna Counselors for Boca Regional employees), along with Resiliency Support Groups and numerous helpful webinar sessions, which are updated daily. For physicians and other providers, please be sure to visit [Physician & APPs - BE WELL \(baptisthealth.net\)](#) for additional resources and support services.

As we continue our critical mission through the pandemic, please remember to take good care of yourself by following all the safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. Also, I hope you can carve out time to relax and recharge.

Thank you for all that you do each day. It is greatly appreciated by everyone at Baptist Health, our patients and families and our community.

With gratitude,

### **Bo Boulenger**

**Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer**

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