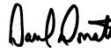




# Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



TO: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: Darrel Donatto, Fire Rescue Chief 

SUBJECT: November 2021 Update on COVID-19 pandemic

DATE: November 8, 2021

While we are all anxious to be done with COVID-19 and its effects on our lives and the economy, the reality is we may never, actually, get rid of it. It is much more likely, at least for the next few years, that COVID-19 will likely transition to an endemic disease in 2022 and beyond, with timelines varying across the globe as vaccination rates differ significantly from country to country.

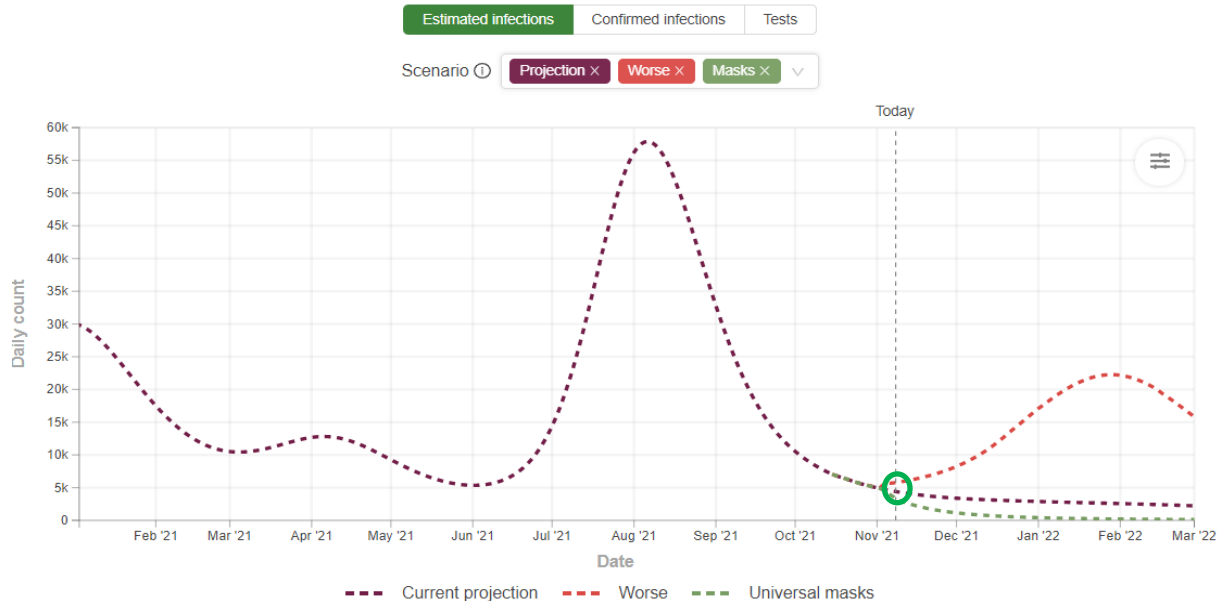
Here in Florida, new daily COVID-19 infections continue to fall, and here in Palm Beach County, our new case positivity rate is down below 3%. Palm Beach County has an estimated 1.5 million people, of which approximately 985,000 are vaccinated, and approximately 226,000 have been previously infected, thus, in theory, affording them some form of natural immunity. That only leaves about 289,000 people who do not have any known exemption countywide. The Town itself enjoys a very high vaccination rate.

## ESTIMATED COVID-19 INFECTION IN FLORIDA

### Daily infections and testing

[Trend](#)[Compare](#)[Map](#)

Estimated infections are the number of people we estimate are infected with COVID-19 each day, including those not tested.



Data from: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/florida?view=infections-testing&tab=trend&test=infections>

Experts are predicting an endemic phase for the virus. Endemic means that there will likely be a relatively constant presence of the disease over time, with some ebbs and flows during predictable times of year (i.e., winter seasonality). While an endemic phase is better than the constant growth phase, it does not mean that we will not still be plagued by the virus' spread, illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths, because we will, albeit at a much slower and lower rate.

There is some evidence of waning immunity for those who have been vaccinated, and this should be cause for concern for our Town's residents. This waning immunity, decreased mask use, and the potential for an increase in close indoor contact with others due to winter seasonality should serve as motivation for those who have been vaccinated more than six months ago to consider getting a booster shot.

To help vaccinate residents with booster shots, Palm Beach Fire Rescue held two vaccination clinics on November 1 and November 4. We provided booster shots for 134 people on November 1, 2021, and another 114 booster shots on November 14, 2021. We plan on doing this again after Thanksgiving, when more people will be back in Town. While you can get a booster shot at many different locations, including most major pharmacies and through Publix, for those residents who feel most comfortable getting their booster shot from Fire Rescue, we hope to do our best to help them do just that.

In addition, Palm Beach Fire Rescue is still offering monoclonal antibody treatment (Regeneron) to Town residents and Town employees and their families. For those infected by COVID-19, or those exposed to someone positive with COVID-19, monoclonal antibody therapy helps prevent severe symptoms, hospitalization, and death. To date, we have administered monoclonal antibody therapy to 37 people. Residents can call 561-227-7092 to set up an appointment for a Fire- Rescue crew to come to their home to administer the monoclonal antibody treatment.

As we enter this new endemic phase, we need to plan for how best to live with the threat of COVID and how best to reduce that threat.

To date, the best protection is vaccination. Those that are vaccinated should consider getting their booster shot after six months from immunization. Those who are not yet vaccinated should familiarize themselves with the current science and data and consider getting vaccinated to protect themselves and others.