

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**FRANKLIN and GULF COVID – 19 UPDATE – 8/27/21**

For **Franklin County** updates straight to your phone: text **FranklinCV19** to 888777.

For **Gulf County** updates straight to your phone text **GULFCOVID** to 888777.

**1. The best defense against COVID-19 is the vaccine.**

COVID-19 vaccines are effective and are a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. The vaccine helps protect you and the health of the broader community. If you still get COVID-19, the vaccine has been proven to reduce the severity of illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccines are still available through medical providers, the health department and local pharmacies at no cost.

**2. People should talk to their medical provider about COVID-19 treatments appropriate for them.**

**About Monoclonal Antibody Therapy.** If you are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19, your healthcare provider might recommend that you receive monoclonal antibody therapy.

To find a location, go to <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/monoclonal-antibody-therapy/>

Monoclonal antibodies are a treatment authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for use in adult and pediatric patients (12 and older) who have either been diagnosed or exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19.

In clinical trials, this treatment resulted in a 70% reduction in risk for hospitalization and death, and resulted in an 82% reduction in risk for contracting COVID-19 for people who were exposed to the virus by other members of their household. People should talk to their medical provider about whether the use of monoclonal antibody treatment is appropriate for them. More information can be found in the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Section of this document.**

**3. If you are positive for COVID-19, you are infectious to others. Stay home unless you need medical care.****You can be with others after:**

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

**4. Close contact to a positive case?**

Follow guidance on page 4.

**What is going on with cases in our counties?** Let's look at July and August 2021 data:

**Franklin:**

Week	Positive	Total tested	Percent positive*
7/23-7/29	74	245	30.20%
7/30-8/05	109	341	31.96%
8/06-8/12	131	350	37.43%
8/13-8/19	94	273	34.43%
8/20-8/27	126	362	34.81%

**Gulf:**

Week	Positive	Total tested	Percent positive*
7/23-7/29	128	441	29.02%
7/30-8/05	155	545	28.44%
8/06-8/12	93	427	21.78%
8/13-8/19	75	320	23.44%
8/20-8/27	102	448	22.77%

*\*How to understand percent positivity for new resident cases: residents who test positive divided by all residents tested during a time period.*

**How well are Franklin and Gulf doing with vaccination efforts?**

Franklin: 49% (Franklin population babies and up: 12,295 | Age 12 & older with vaccine: 5,387)

Gulf: 49% (Gulf population babies and up: 14,829 | Age 12 & older with vaccine: 6,362)

State: 68%

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

**How long should you wait after a COVID infection to get vaccinated?**

You can get the vaccine after you've recovered from COVID-19. Most recovered adults have a degree of immunity for at least 90 days following initial diagnosis of COVID-19. However, we cannot be certain just how much immunity any one individual has post exposure. Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your provider if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

**"I know someone who got the vaccine and still got COVID-19. How can this be?"**

Vaccine breakthrough cases are expected. COVID-19 vaccines are effective and are a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. However, no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness in vaccinated people. Some variants, like Delta, are more contagious. The best protection to greatly reduce the severity of illness, hospitalization and death is the vaccine.

**Are the vaccines safe?**

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. <https://youtu.be/7bBmQaX2k4w>

Over 357 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in the United States from December 14, 2020, through August 16, 2021. The vaccines met the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA).

These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

### **Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to be magnetic?**

**No.** Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.

### **What is going on with the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccines?**

Right now, an additional dose of Moderna or Pfizer is **ONLY** recommended for people with compromised immune systems. This is because people with compromised immune systems may not build the same level of immunity to the 2-dose vaccine series. These shots are only available to people who received a two-dose vaccine from Pfizer or Moderna, and the dose is provided 28 days after your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. A 3<sup>rd</sup> dose has not yet been approved for Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

**Check for health eligibility:** Have you been diagnosed as having a compromised immune system?

This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

### **What about COVID-19 “boosters” vaccines for everyone?**

At this time, booster doses are not available to the general public, but we do anticipate providing these in the future. We will continue to stay tuned to the CDC and the state for any updates to this guidance and will notify the public immediately.

### **When is the best time to get Monoclonal Antibody Treatment?**

**People should talk to their medical provider about whether the use of monoclonal antibody treatment is appropriate for them.** The treatment is most effective when given early and the sooner it is given the better.

There is not a time limit to receive the medication, however it must be delivered prior to the occurrence of severe illness. **Monoclonal Antibody treatment is available to all eligible people, regardless of vaccination status.** [High-risk patients](#) should get treatment as quickly as possible after testing positive for COVID-19. Examples of medical conditions that may pose a higher risk for severe illness and could potentially benefit from this treatment include, but are not limited to:

- Older age (65 years of age and older); Individuals overweight; Chronic kidney disease; Diabetes; Pregnancy; Immunosuppressive disease or treatments; Cardiovascular disease; Chronic lung diseases; Sickle cell disease; Neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy; Having medical-related technological dependence such as tracheostomy or gastrostomy.

There is no cost at state sites. No one will be denied services due to inability to pay for administrative cost at State of Florida sites.

At the direction of Governor DeSantis, the Florida Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management are working together to deploy mobile and stationary monoclonal antibody therapy treatment sites.

No prescription or referral required for State of Florida sites. To support Governor DeSantis' initiative, there is currently a [standing order in Florida](#) signed by the State Surgeon General that allows patients to receive this treatment without a prescription or referral if administered by an eligible health care provider.

**Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release any of their components?**

**No.** Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus. The mRNA and viral vector vaccines are two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

**Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

**No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

**I've been identified as a close contact\* to a positive case. What do I do?**

*\*Close Contact means within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period with someone who has COVID-19*

**General Quarantine guidance – vaccinated adults and students:**

If the individual who has been exposed to COVID-19 has been completely vaccinated for COVID-19 and it has been at least 14 days since the last dose of the vaccination series was administered, they do not have to quarantine following an exposure.

They should however monitor themselves for symptoms for the 10 days following exposure. If symptoms occur, they should seek testing and reach out to the health department for further guidance.

**General Quarantine guidance – unvaccinated adults:**

If the individual who has been exposed to COVID-19 has not been vaccinated for COVID-19, the vaccination series has not been completed, or it has not been at least 14 days since the final series dose was administered, the individual should quarantine.

Release from quarantine exists in 2 ways currently:

1. Quarantine at home for 10 days and return to normal life on day 11
2. Quarantine at home, have a negative COVID-19 test completed on or after day 5, remain home without symptoms through day 7 and go back to normal life on day 8 (AS LONG AS the individual continues to be symptom free).

**General Quarantine guidance – unvaccinated students:**

If the student who has been exposed to COVID-19 has not been vaccinated for COVID-19, the vaccination series has not been completed, or it has not been at least 14 days since the final series dose was administered, the student should quarantine.

Release from quarantine exists in 2 ways currently:

1. Quarantine at home for 7 days and return to normal life on day 8
2. Quarantine at home until day 5, have a negative COVID-19 test completed on (or after) day 5, and return to normal life after receipt of negative test result (AS LONG AS the student continues to be symptom free).

**What if an individual has previously tested positive for COVID-19?**

If an individual (adult, child or student) has previously tested positive for COVID-19 and it has been within the last 90 days they are not required to quarantine. The individual should monitor themselves for symptoms. If

symptoms should develop, they should isolate at home and contact their primary care or the health department for further guidance.