

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

M-DCPS Partners with Jackson Health System to Provide First Wave of COVID-19 Employee Vaccines

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has partnered with Jackson Health System (JHS) to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all M-DCPS employees age 65 and older, including part-time personnel, during a two-day event this weekend. The vaccinations will be administered on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24 at Jackson's three sites, which are conveniently located throughout the county. This weekend's M-DCPS-JHS vaccination event is the beginning of more to come.

"Whether they are teaching, feeding, transporting students or maintaining our schools clean, our dedicated employees have always worked tirelessly to provide the best environment for all children," said Schools Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho. "Protecting the health and wellbeing of these essential workers is vital to ensuring student learning continues as we move towards stabilizing our community and the economy. We are grateful to Jackson Health System for teaming up with us on this life-saving initiative."

Early last December, Superintendent Carvalho began advocating for the prioritization of the COVID-19 vaccine for school personnel in a letter sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis and State Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees. At its regular meeting in January, The School Board of Miami-Dade unanimously approved a resolution seeking the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccinations for teachers and all school personnel, asking the Superintendent to advocate for this request at the local, state and national level.

"Jackson Health System is committed to controlling this pandemic by vaccinating as many people as possible in our community," said Carlos A. Migoya, president and CEO of Jackson Health System. "By forging this partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we will work together to get vaccines into the arms of educators and school system employees age 65 and older - people who are essential in our community and in the lives of our children. This added layer of protection against the virus will help them continue to work and thrive in a safe environment."

Employees will be receiving additional information, including how to preregister for the event and the exact date and time of their appointment.

This latest partnership with JHS is an additional collective effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. M-DCPS continues to work closely with JHS and Miami-Dade County on a joint communications campaign focused on raising awareness about public health resources and COVID-19 prevention methods.

**The above-referenced letter sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis and State Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees is attached.

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