

Subject: August Newsletter: COVID-19, Back To School, Business of the Month and more...



## August Newsletter

**[Para ver este boletín en español, haz clic aquí.](#)**

### COVID-19

**Senator Taddeo to Governor Ron DeSantis: Governor now is not the time to play political games, it is time to govern.** On August 20th, Senator Taddeo sent a second letter to Governor Ron DeSantis calling on him to declare a state of emergency, allowing the federal government to assist in Florida efforts to conserve liquid oxygen supplies and suspend restrictions on how many hours truck drivers can be on the road to meet shipping needs.



August 20th, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
Office of the Governor  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I am writing to you again from Orlando, FL, where residents are being asked to conserve water to be able to reroute liquid oxygen to hospitals in order to treat patients infected with COVID-19. There are over 15,000 new COVID-19 cases and 799 individuals who have lost their lives. Our state is at 78% of ICU bed capacity. Governor, this cannot wait any longer. As I urged you in my letter on Tuesday, July 27th, it is now an even greater matter of life and death that a state of emergency be declared. If we want to further prevent loss of life, our hospitals need the help of the state and federal government to provide the critical resources they need.

Right now, our hospitals are seeing the highest admission of patients than ever before, surpassing our previous hospitalization peaks from last June of 2020. Multiple hospitals have already postponed elective surgeries such as Baptist Health in Jacksonville and Memorial Healthcare System in Broward. Under Florida's state of emergency order, you were able to suspend statutes and rules of order that would have hindered our response to the pandemic. Some of these provisions included allowing retired doctors and healthcare professionals residing outside the state to be able to practice in Florida without a state license, addressing critical staff shortages. We also saw the suspension of restrictions on how many hours truck drivers could be on the road, ensuring speedy replenishment of oxygen tanks where they were needed most. It is clear that these expired provisions are desperately needed and must be reinstated by declaring a state of emergency, allowing the federal government to also supply these resources.

On July 30th, you issued Executive Order 21-175 to prevent mask mandates in our schools in order to protect our children. However, as of today, Florida now has the second-highest number of pediatric hospitalizations, averaging 188 children a day. If your administration is serious about protecting children and the rights of parents, I implore you to take swift action before more children are hospitalized.

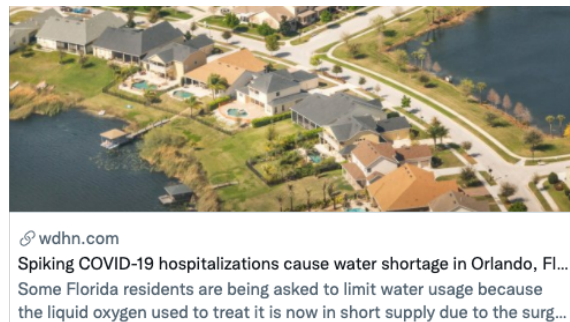
Governor, now is not the time to play political games, it is time to govern. It is not the time to defend our schools for implementing mask requirements in the best interest of our children by the advice of medical professionals, but to urge the public to adhere to CDC guidelines and dispel any myths or misinformation on the COVID-19 vaccine. It is the time to protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If we want to save lives, our state requires a holistic, thoughtful approach in reminding Floridians not only that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, free, and the best defense against the disease but that our most vulnerable demographic at this time, our children, need to be protected as well.

Sincerely,

Annette Taddeo  
State Senator  
Florida Senate

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:  
Ethics and Elections, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Tourism, and Economic Development  
Banking and Insurance  
Commerce and Tourism  
Criminal Justice



**Hospitalizations of COVID-19 have sky-rocketed among the unvaccinated, especially in younger patients.** Senator Taddeo has sent two letters to Governor Ron DeSantis asking him to declare a state of emergency to provide our hospitals and medical professionals the resources they require due to the recent spike in cases. Since then, a state of emergency has not been called and Florida has reached record COVID cases and hospitals have suspended elective surgeries and some have required vaccinations within their staff to curb the spread.

### **Senator Taddeo on Telemundo 51 with Gloria Ordaz**

It is imperative that the safety of our community be our top priority during this pandemic. The conversation on masks has divided our state and we must come together to prevail as this should not be political. Our COVID-19 cases have reached peak levels and our hospitals cannot afford the levels of patients they are experiencing.



---

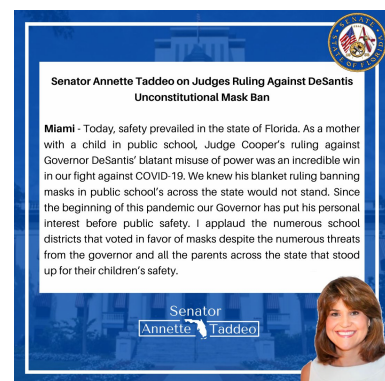
**Miami-Dade Sen. Annette Taddeo couldn't believe state's threat to remove school board members over vote in favor of masks in schools**, suggesting it sounds like something controversial leaders Nicolás Maduro Moros, Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega would do. "To remove school board members elected by the people because they disagree with his (DeSantis') frankly unconstitutional order to not allow local, elected boards to make decisions on what is best for their community... it's insane," Taddeo said.



---

**Senator Taddeo's Statement on Judges Ruling Against DeSantis Unconstitutional Mask Ban in Public Schools.**

As a mother with a child in public school, Judge Cooper's ruling against Governor DeSantis' blatant misuse of power was an incredible win in our fight against COVID-19.

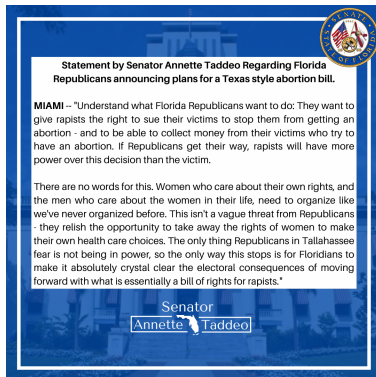




### **Senator Taddeo with former Mayor Raul Martinez on his show "Sin Mordaza"**

Families, hospitals, schools, businesses and more have suffered throughout this pandemic. There is not one entity that has not been affected throughout this last year and a half of uncertainty. Now that we have vaccines, we urge you to please get vaccinated.

## **News**



**Statement by Senator Annette Taddeo Regarding Florida Republicans announcing plans for a Texas style attack on reproductive rights.** The only thing Republicans in Tallahassee fear is not being in power, so the only way this stops is for Floridians to make it absolutely crystal clear the electoral consequences of moving forward with what is essentially a rapists bill of rights.

## **Events**



### Welcoming White House Staff to Miami

Senator Taddeo was honored to host Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for the Western Hemisphere **Juan S. Gonzalez** from the National Security Council, Special Assistant to the President **Nathaly Arriola Maurice** from the Office of Public Engagement and **Mark Feierstein** of U.S. AID. They came all the way from Washington D.C. to meet with **Colombian and Venezuelan community leaders** to discuss the real life issues gravely affecting our community in South Florida and abroad.

---

Schools welcomed back our students this month so what better way to prepare them than with **Back-Pack Giveaways!** We partnered with 'Mothers Fighting For Justice' for two distribution events to better help prepare our students for the start of classes. Thank you to our donors who provided hundreds of school supplies to distribute as well as Pepsi Co. who provided our volunteers with snacks and drinks.

---







Thank you to **National Community Services** for celebrating the **Independence of Ecuador!** It was a great honor for Senator Taddeo to be presented with two awards for her community work as well as present a proclamation distinguishing 'El Primer Grito de Independencia del Ecuador'.

---



Senator Taddeo was honored and humbled to be awarded the **2021 Senator of the Year Public Service Award** by Autism Speaks Florida. Representative Allison Tant and Senator Taddeo were able to unanimously pass two bills for individuals with developmental disabilities, and they couldn't have done it without the outpouring of support!

---

### **WOW Center Miami awarded \$250,000**

Team Taddeo had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of the \$250,000 check awarded to [Wow Center Miami](#) in our Senate District from the Florida Legislature. With these funds they'll be able to continue their work for individuals with developmental disabilities.



### Zoo Miami awarded \$500,000

Senate District 40 is the proud home to [Zoo Miami](#) and Senator Taddeo was proud to help secure the \$500,000 appropriation from The State of Florida for Zoo Miami's new animal hospital. Team Taddeo was pleased to attend the funding presentation.




communitynewspapers.com

Zoo Miami receives \$500k for Animal Hospital

Through the State of Florida, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission will provide the funds Zoo Miami Foundation is pleased to announce that i...


## Business of the Month

Congratulations to our Senate District 40 SEPTEMBER Business of the Month [Main Street Smiles](#). Join us for this recognition by following them on social media. **Nominate** your [favorite SD 40 Small Business!](#)



# SEPTEMBER

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Senator  
Annette Taddeo

Senate District 40



### •Main Street•

Children's Dentistry  
& Orthodontics


**PEDIATRICIAN RECOMMENDED,  
PARENT TRUSTED**

FROM FIRST SMILES TO STRAIGHT SMILES, AVAILABLE  
FOR ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S ORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS!


**ADDRESS:**  
7887 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 200  
Miami, FL 33156

  @MainStreetSmiles

<https://www.mainstreetsmiles.com/>

  
**HOURS:**

MON: 8AM-6PM  
TUE: 9AM-5PM  
WED: 9AM-5:30PM  
THU: 9AM-5PM  
FRI: 9AM-4PM

  
**(786) 838-4157**

## Announcements

Make a difference in the life  
of a child or teen in our community.

**Become a Foster Parent.**

For more information, contact us:  
1-855-786-KIDS (5437)  
[www.citrusfcn.com](http://www.citrusfcn.com)



Foster Hope.  
Foster Love.  
Foster Family.



   @citrusfcn

#FosterHopeAndLove

Positive relationships have the power to change lives. **Make a difference for kids and teens in Miami-Dade County by becoming a Foster Parent.** Contact **Citrus Family Care Network** to learn more at 1-855-786-KIDS (5437) or by visiting <http://citrusfcn.com>.

**Take the poll from Opportunity For All Floridians:** Should lawmakers like Senator Taddeo reintroduce bills to make bottled water companies pay to extract public water in Florida?





---

## **Unemployment Update**

All remaining **Federal Unemployment Benefit extensions in Florida** expired on **September 6th**. This means unemployed Floridians at no fault of their own will only receive up to \$275 per week, much lower than the national average. If you require assistance with your unemployment claim please do not hesitate to reach out to our office via email at [Taddeo.Annette.Web@FLsenate.gov](mailto:Taddeo.Annette.Web@FLsenate.gov).

---

## **COVID-19 Resources**



Every week **food distributions** are organized in Miami-Dade hosted by [Feeding South Florida](#) and [Farm Share](#). **During this Coronavirus crisis many organizations are coming together to support our community.**

---

## **CORONAVIRUS TESTING**

Miami-Dade provides a list of testing sites [online here](#), including **mobile testing, walk-up and drive-thru**. Getting tested is key to receiving early treatment and preventing the

spread of COVID-19.

---

**COVID-19 VACCINE:** ALL individuals 12+ are eligible, [click here for details](#). Please visit [miamidade.gov/vaccine](http://miamidade.gov/vaccine) for all vaccine updates.

**VACCINE BOOSTERS:** U.S. health experts recommend COVID-19 vaccine boosters for all Americans, regardless of age, eight months after they received their second dose of the shot.

---

## **Financial Assistance**



**The Emergency Rental Program (ERAP) is now accepting applications.** The ERAP provides rental payment assistance for up to 12 months in back rent, if you meet certain income qualifications and are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Apply here.](#)

---

### **Rental and Other Assistance for the Homeless or Evicted**

The federal ban on evictions has expired. If you or a loved one are homeless or were recently evicted, support is available in [Miami-Dade County](#). This assistance includes payment of first month's rent, security deposit, mortgage and utility bills, as well as shelter and food. [Click here.](#)

---

## **Contact Us**

### **Email**

**Taddeo.Annette.web@FLsenate.gov**

**Phone**

**Miami: (305) 596-3003**

**Tallahassee: (850) 487-5040**

**District Office**

**9100 South Dadeland Boulevard Suite 1500**

**Miami, FL 33156**



---

Stay informed, follow us!



---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---