



THE BERMAN BRIEFING

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SENATE DISTRICT 31

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: WEEK SEVEN



STATE SENATOR
LORI BERMAN
Senate Democratic
Policy Chair

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COMMITTEES

Appropriations
Subcommittee on
Agriculture,
Environment, and
General Government

Finance and Tax

Education

Transportation

Ethics & Elections

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Week Seven of our 2021 legislative session is now over. Stay tuned and involved. We have only two more weeks left in session and will be on the floor most of the days remaining to discuss and debate many additional hot button items.

While around 12.8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Floridians, and almost 22.9% of our population are fully vaccinated, it is important to continue practicing social distancing and safety measures such as washing your hands often and wearing masks. Stay well and healthy.

Our Tallahassee line is 850.487.5031 and my email is Berman.Lori.Web@flsenate.gov.

Lori

Senate Democratic Policy Chair

IMPORTANT PALM BEACH COUNTY OPERATIONS CONOAVIRUS UPDATES FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

EMERGENCY ORDER 2021-004 ISSUED EXTENDING FACIAL COVERINGS TO 05/18/21

NEW [Interactive vaccination locator map](#)

[Vaccine Information Flyer](#)

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE

As recommended by the CDC and FDA, distribution of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is being paused to allow for review of a small number of cases of blood clots experienced by vaccine recipients. The Health Care District of Palm Beach County and local Health Department use of this vaccine is on hold pending further notice from the CDC and FDA. Strike team pop-up vaccination sites under the direction of the Florida Department of Health, including an event at Wellington Mall today and one in Royal Palm Beach tomorrow, are also temporarily suspended in response to this notice. Distribution of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is unaffected by this action.

***NEW* Health Care District's Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments Available with No Wait Times**

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County encourages individuals 16 years and older to self-schedule their first-dose appointments for the Pfizer vaccine online at <http://vaccine.hcdpbc.org> [vaccine.hcdpbc.org]. After opening over 16,000 first-dose appointments yesterday, there have been no wait times to schedule an appointment today. Appointment dates are available between Wednesday, April 21 through Thursday, May 6, 2021. Individuals 16 years and older are eligible to self-schedule appointments for the Pfizer vaccine brand.

The website <http://vaccine.hcdpbc.org> [vaccine.hcdpbc.org] lists the available dates, times, locations and eligibility requirements at each of the Health Care District's three mass vaccination sites at the South County Civic Center west of Delray Beach, the Burns Road Community Center in Palm Beach Gardens, and the South Florida Fairgrounds in suburban West Palm Beach. Individuals need to follow the state eligibility guidelines when scheduling to avoid being turned away at the sites. A parent or guardian must be present at the appointment of those who are 16 and 17 years old.

***NEW* Emergency Rental, RELOCATION and Utility Assistance**

Due to the high volume of applications, the Palm Beach County Community Services Department's online portal for Emergency Rental Assistance, Relocation Assistance and Utility Assistance is currently closed. The portal will reopen on May 3, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. For more information, click [here](#).

Ballpark of the Palm Beaches

5100 N. Haverhill Road, West Palm Beach, 33407

Drive-through site

Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Any age; with or without symptoms

Testing in the order of arrival; no appointment needed

PCR/Molecular Testing

Rapid Antigen Testing

To preregister with your information for testing go

to: https://ops.patientportalfl.com/s/?language=en_US

Health Care District of PBC (HCD) C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinic at Lakeside Medical Center

39200 Hooker Hwy, Belle Glade, 33430

Walk-up site, appointments recommended; Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. - Noon

Any age; with or without symptoms

Call 561-642-1000 for an appointment

PCR Molecular Testing and Rapid Antigen Testing

HCD C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinic Jupiter

411 W. Indiantown Rd., Jupiter, 33458

Appointments only; Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Any age; with or without symptoms

Call 561-642-1000 for an appointment

PCR Molecular Testing and Rapid Antigen Testing

HCD C. L. Brumback Primary Care Clinic Delray Beach

225 S. Congress Ave, Delray Beach, 33445

Appointments only; Monday through Friday; 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Any age; with or without symptoms

Call 561-642-1000 for an appointment

PCR Molecular Testing and Rapid Antigen Testing

HCD “Scout” and “Hero” Mobile Clinic Outreach

Walk-up site, any age; with or without symptoms
Varying locations and hours as scheduled
PCR Molecular Testing and Rapid Antigen Testing

FAU Tech Runway at Florida Atlantic University

901 NW 35th Street, Boca Raton, 33431
Walk up site, Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Any age, with or without symptoms
PCR/Molecular and Rapid Antigen Testing 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. No appointment necessary
To preregister with your information for testing go to: <https://ops.patientportalfi.com/s/>

Town Center at Boca Raton Mall

6000 Glades Rd., Boca Raton, 33431, at the Sears parking lot
Walk up site; every day from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Any age; with or without symptoms
No appointment necessary.
PCR/Molecular and Rapid Antigen Testing

Homebound Resident Testing

Residents eligible include homebound elderly or individuals with disabilities who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and cannot leave their homes to access one of the drive-up or walk-up test collection sites. Residents who believe they are eligible for the in-home testing option should call 561-712-6400 for a pre-qualifying assessment. The testing line is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

VACCINE INFORMATION

Florida Health Vaccine Information Page

Florida Health - Palm Beach County Vaccine Information Page

DOH Appointment Hotline: 866-201-6754

Palm Beach County Health Care District Vaccine Information Page

Publix Pharmacy Vaccine Information Page

CVS Pharmacy Vaccine Information Page

Winn Dixie Vaccine Information Page (Hypoluxo Rd, Lake Worth only)

Wal-Mart Vaccine Information Page

Walgreens Vaccination Information Page

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

West Palm Beach VA is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to all Veterans, regardless of age, who receive care at VA

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM @ PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY

Palm Beach County Feeding Sites Interactive Map

BERMAN’S BILLS HEAD TO THE SENATE FLOOR

SB 184: Purple Alert

SB 184 establishes a Purple Alert, which can be activated when an individual who falls in the parameters set forth goes missing and whose disappearance is a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to themselves. This includes those with a mental, cognitive, intellectual or developmental disability or one with a brain injury or another mental, physical or emotional disability that is not related to substance abuse. The Bill passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday 4/15 and is headed to the floor for a vote on Wednesday, 4/21.

SB 358: Water Safety and Swimming Certification for K-12

Asks parents of children entering any public or private school system to confirm that their child has had swimming lessons when entering the school system and allows school authorities to identify students who may not know how to swim and will help put these parents in touch with free or low-cost programs to ensure their child has an opportunity to learn, presuming there is a desire. The bill was heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Friday, 4/16, and now heads to the floor.

SB 1070: Estates and Trusts

This bill creates the "Florida Uniform Directed Trust Act" addressing trusts that grant a trust administration power to a person other than a trustee and create the "Community Property Trust Act" that allows spouses to transfer property into a Florida Community Property Trust. The bill was heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Friday 4/16 and passed. It heads to the Senate floor Wednesday.

BILLS OF SIGNIFICANCE

CS/HB 1: Combatting Public Disorder

This bill has been highly publicized since Governor DeSantis announced it as a priority in the midst of summer protests for Black Lives Matter. After hours of debate, CS/HB 1 passed the Senate in a 23 to 17 vote. One Republican, Senator Jeff Brandes (R- St. Petersburg), defected from his party to oppose the bill with Democrats. This bill stifles and chills the First Amendment right to "free speech" and "assembly." There are already sufficient laws on the books to criminalize violent rioters (assault, battery, theft, burglary) and law enforcement have multiple tools at their disposal to combat public disorder. By creating new offenses that are vaguely defined, and by enhancing penalties, CS/HB 1 will contribute to more arrests and criminal convictions, the vast majority of which will be plea agreements, staining records and further disenfranchising minorities. One new law the bill creates, mob intimidation, is so capacious, peaceful protests caught in the wrong crowd could face prosecution, even if they have no association with a violent perpetrator. The bill's effective date is upon the signature of the Governor.

CS/CS/SB 54: Motor Vehicle Insurance

This bill passed the Senate floor in a 38 to 1 vote. It repeals the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law (No-Fault Law), which requires every owner and registrant of a motor vehicle in this state to maintain Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage. Beginning January 1, 2022, the bill enacts financial responsibility requirements for liability for motor vehicle ownership or operation, as follows:

- For bodily injury (BI) or death of one person in any one crash, \$25,000, and, subject to the limit for one person, \$50,000 for BI or death of two or more people in any one crash.
- The bill sets a lower financial responsibility requirement of \$15,000 for BI or death of one person, and \$30,000 for BI or death of two or more persons, for persons having a household income of 200 percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines and for full time students attending a secondary or post-secondary school.
- The existing \$10,000 financial responsibility requirement for property damage (PD) is retained.

LEADERSHIP ENGAGE

Each year's [Engage](#) class is made up of a group of motivated, informed and diverse professionals who are selected for their leadership and service within Palm Beach County and beyond. Participants meet each month and travel to all parts of the county as they explore program topics such as agriculture, public safety, and healthcare.

The Leadership Engage Program is about just that - engaging. Engaging with classmates to make new business and personal relationships, engaging with Alumni to contribute to a network of diverse leaders, and engaging with the community to foster change where it is needed. With so much going on around us, there has never been a more important time to engage.

The Engage Class of 2022 will discuss unique issues that our county is facing right now, and participants will have the opportunity to talk to leaders about how they are navigating the uncharted circumstances that we are facing today. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and will be an extremely special experience, and we encourage you to take advantage of it.

We do not want financial constraints to prohibit anyone from participating in this program. For this reason, we will be offering flexible payment plans that accepted participants may take advantage of to fulfill tuition if they so choose.

If you're ready to be a part of something very special, apply for the Engage Class of 2022! If you are already a graduate of Engage, encourage your friends and colleagues to apply. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

[Applications due Monday, April 26, 2021, at 5pm.](#)

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Berman" followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Berman
State Senator, District 31

