

Community Vaccination Input

Thursday, December 31, 2020
Commissioner David Arreola

These recommendations are made after consulting with officials at the Alachua County Health Dept (ACHD), UF Health, the College of Medicine, North Florida Regional Hospital, and various concerned neighbors. They are made with the understanding that ACHD will administer all vaccines to the general public.

1. Pack the Queue

Across the board there is agreement that State and Federal guidance beyond the first priority of vaccinations has not been clear. The Governor's order gives broad allowance for hospitals to vaccinate anybody they choose after those over 65+ years old, health care workers, and first responders. Therefore, by continuing to work with the ACHD as they have all year, our hospitals can arrange for mass vaccination of the general population next. We do not need to wait for State or Federal guidance to begin.

2. At-Risk and Devastated Populations

Based on ACHD data, our seniors, and predominantly our Black and Brown neighbors, have suffered the worst effects of COVID-19 sickness. They must continue to be prioritized even if appointments are scheduled months in advance. Additionally, people with chronic illnesses, pre-existing conditions (i.e. Lyme's disease, acute asthma, etc.), must be prioritized. Due to privacy concerns, the city should avoid requesting that information. However, the ACHD and hospital collaboration can work with private providers to ensure their patients are queued for vaccine appointments in the future. For those without primary care physicians, we must devise a solution.

3. Essential Workers and the General Population

For people whose work puts them into close contact with lots of people in order to make a living, there should also be prioritization. Businesses and public institutions should have the ability to register for future vaccine appointments. Teachers, bus drivers (RTS and ACPS), service industry employees, delivery drivers, private practice, etc. all come to mind.

Motion language

1. Authorize City of Gainesville general government staff to offer public space and paramedics to ACHD for immediate vaccine administration.
2. Authorize City of Gainesville general government staff to collaborate with ACHD to create an education program on vaccine safety and transparency on vaccine administration.
3. Coordinate with ACHD to assist with developing next priority lists of community vaccination for at-risk people and the entire population throughout 2021 and to assist with community outreach, education, and administration.
4. Write a letter to UF Health and NFRH supporting their coordination with ACHD to assist with supplying vaccines for community vaccination of the general population once they have completed vaccinating their own staff and high risk patients.