

# HAPPENINGS

**Weekly Edition**  
**Friday, August 27, 2021**

## **Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine Receives Full Approval**

Last week Pfizer received full approval for their COVID-19 vaccine. What does full approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine mean?

It means Pfizer's shot for people 16 and older has now undergone the same rigorous testing and regulatory review as dozens of other long-established vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. were initially rolled out under the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization, which allows the agency to waive some of its normal data requirements and procedures, to make the COVID-19 vaccines available months earlier than would have been possible under normal circumstances.

Pfizer's vaccine, along with those from Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, still underwent testing in tens of thousands of people to establish safety and effectiveness against COVID-19, but the FDA only required the companies to submit about only two months of safety monitoring data on study participants, the period when side effects are most likely to occur. For full approval, the FDA required six months of follow-up data.

Full approval means the Pfizer vaccine now carries the FDA's strongest endorsement of safety and effectiveness.

Drugmaker Moderna announced last Wednesday that its COVID-19 vaccine is 93% effective after six months as it completed another step on the way to full approval of the vaccine by the Food and Drug Administration. Moderna has also applied for full approval, and Johnson & Johnson has said it hopes to apply later in the year.

For youngsters, Pfizer's shot still is available for 12- to 15-year-olds under emergency use authorization. The full approval also does not apply to those vaccines or boosters.

The agency will decide separately whether an extra shot is necessary for healthy people. Although only recommended for certain high-risk individuals, people are scrambling to receive them. CDC is sending mixed signals that they are not recommended, but the approved vaccines might be weakened for those who received them early on.

The U.S. has had nearly 38 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 629,800 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University data. The global totals: more than 212.8 million cases and 4.44 million deaths.

More than 171.3 million Americans – 51.6% of the population – have been fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. And still there is no treatment protocol. Every hospital and health care giver are just trying their best to keep people alive.

Once again, we need leadership, real science and common sense. But masks and social distancing still remain a good plan to stay safe and keep those you love safe.

## **Planning To Go On A Cruise?**

Last Friday, the CDC began advising travelers who are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness to avoid cruises because of the close proximity of ship passengers, the limited options for care on board and the challenges of medically evacuating travelers at sea, Centers spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund said Tuesday.

Some cruise lines — and cruise destinations — are also revising their own guidelines.

Starting Sept. 3, the Bahamas is requiring all passengers 12 and older to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition for ships to dock. That has prompted companies including Disney Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean and Carnival to announce this week that they are adopting the same requirement. The companies will ask for a government vaccination card or a record from a health care provider. Earlier this month a federal judge in Florida temporarily blocked a state law banning cruise lines from requiring passengers to prove they're vaccinated.

The companies are also once again requiring masks in indoor areas of the ships and other places where people gather. "Unfortunately, no venue on land or at sea is COVID-free right now," Carnival Corp. said in a written statement. Neither cruise lines nor the federal government are reporting how many cases they have had on their ships. They have only acknowledged that there have been infections.

Some companies are offering full refunds if people test positive for COVID-19 or decide to cancel after a cruise line shortens the length of a planned trip. Check with your cruise line **and destinations** for their rules and requirements before you go.

## Hurricane Season Still Brewing

Tropical Depression Nine has formed in the Caribbean Sea and is likely to soon strengthen into Tropical Storm Ida and possibly a hurricane before potentially threatening Gulf Coast by late this weekend. For us, hopefully it's just extra rain (again!) and another reminder to check our hurricane supplies; batteries, water, gas, medical needs, etc.

And don't forget to test your generator if you have one.

## Brevard County School Board To Expand COVID-19 Testing

Brevard Public School officials told Tuesday night's School Board meeting attendees that they are working overtime to find testing options for thousands of students who are currently quarantined after they were exposed to somebody with COVID-19. Parents on both sides of the mask mandate are divided and angry.

As of Tuesday, 387 staff and 1,862 students in Brevard have tested positive and one school, James Madison Middle School in Titusville, has been closed. Quarantines now total 11,704 for students and staff. Vice Chair Matt Susin said at the beginning of the meeting that the board would ask the County Commission and the Brevard Emergency Operations Center to help the district establish more testing so that quarantined students can return to school as soon as possible. This promise follows the decision to expand testing at the closed Madison Middle, and was expanded to include quarantined students from Astronaut High School, Oak Park Elementary School and Pinewood Elementary School, too.

**A testing site was opened for students and staff from Space Coast Jr/Sr High School, Atlantis Elementary School, Challenger 7 Elementary and Enterprise Elementary to receive COVID-19 testing at Coastal Community Church, 5795 Falcon Blvd.**

Superintendent Mark Mullins said five testing companies the district reached out to had told administrators testing might be available in four weeks. But students need to be tested now.

The meeting attracted protests from parents for and against COVID-19 mitigation policies such as mask requirements and quarantines. But the need for testing seemed to be a place where most, not all, agreed.

The district retook control over counting its cases after the Florida Department of Health became overwhelmed and faced delays during the surge of the virus. Brevard Public Schools Assistant Christine Moore said, "In addition to the documenting that we did last year, we added a new category this year, and that category is how many of our employees are in the hospital, We did not have to do that last year." Tears followed that.

## Drive In Movie In the Park

Brevard County Parks & Recreation (BCPR), North Area Parks Operations (NAPO) will be conducting an event at Fox Lake Park, 4400 Fox Lake Rd., Titusville.

Join us on Saturday night for Movies in the Park at Fox Lake Park!

Bring a blanket or chair and set up under the stars for a family movie night. The movie will begin at 8:45 PM. The movie is FREE and we will have free popcorn available.

The movie will be **Raya and the Last Dragon**, rated (PG-13), on Saturday, August 28, 8:45 PM – 10:30 PM

We are keeping an eye on the weather and we ask that you do, too. In the event of cancelation, we will notify everyone via <https://www.facebook.com/BrevardParks/> and will consider rescheduling for another date. For more information, contact Chris Fuentes-Clark, NAPO Youth Programs & Special Events Coordinator, at (321) 264-5105 x42120 or email [Chris.Fuentes-Clark@BrevardFL.gov](mailto:Chris.Fuentes-Clark@BrevardFL.gov).

**BREVARD COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION | NORTH AREA PARKS**

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**  
us the Park  
#BrevardParks | #MoviesInThePark

**SAT, AUG 28, 2021**  
8:45 PM – 10:30 PM

**RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON**  
**PG**

Fox Lake Park  
4400 Fox Lake Rd  
Titusville, FL 32796

FOR MORE DETAILS & UPDATES  
VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE:  
[Facebook@BrevardParks](https://www.facebook.com/BrevardParks)

**MOVIES IN THE PARK IS FREE TO ATTEND & POPCORN IS FREE TOO!**

*Event may change or be canceled in the event of severe weather or other unforeseen circumstance  
We encourage individuals follow CDC recommended guidelines when attending large gatherings*



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# What To Expect and other FAQs on Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

A clinic for free monoclonal antibody therapy treatment is now open at Kiwanis Island Park, 951 Kiwanis Island Park Road, in Merritt Island. Monoclonal antibody treatments can prevent hospitalization or death in high-risk patients and others suffering from COVID-19 symptoms.

## Frequently Asked Questions About Monoclonal Antibody Treatment:

### What is monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment?

Your body naturally makes antibodies to fight infection. However, your body may not have antibodies designed to recognize a novel (or new) virus like the virus that causes COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection - in this case, COVID - and are given to patients directly.

### Is mAb the same as a vaccine?

MAb treatment for COVID-19 is different from a COVID-19 vaccine. A vaccine triggers your body's natural immune response, but can take weeks to develop enough antibodies and prevent some kinds of infection. MAb treatment gives your body the antibodies it needs to protect itself.

### Who can receive a mAb treatment?

Treatment is authorized by the 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.

### Do I need a prescription or doctor's note to receive a mAb treatment?

No, you do not need a prescription or doctor's note. 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.

### Where is the walk-up mAb treatment site in Brevard County?

Kiwanis Island Park 951 Kiwanis Island Park Rd., Merritt Island, in the Gymnasium building.

### When is the mAb treatment site open?

The site is open from 9AM-7PM, 7 days a week

### Do I need an appointment?

Appointments are not required but are recommended.

### How do I get a mAb treatment appointment?

To schedule an appointment, visit [https://www.patientportalfl.com/s/?language=en\\_US](https://www.patientportalfl.com/s/?language=en_US) or call, (850) 344-9637.

### Is there any cost or do I have to have insurance to receive a mAb treatment?

No, there is no cost to you and you are not required to have insurance. The treatment is FREE, however, the vendor providing the treatment will charge your insurance for the services provided. The vendor will seek reimbursement

through a federal program for those that are uninsured.

### What do I need to bring with me?

You should bring a valid government issued ID (e.g. a driver's license), your insurance card, and a book or tablet to keep your self-entertained while in observation.

### What can I expect when I arrive?

You will enter into the Kiwanis Island Park Gymnasium (the building towards the back of the park), and be directed to the waiting area. If the waiting area is full, you may be asked to wait in your car until your treatment time. You will be asked a series of health and registration questions prior to your treatment.

### How is the mAb treatment administered to a patient?

Currently, the treatment is given via 4 subcutaneous shots, (one in each arm and two in your stomach). After you received your treatment, you will be observed for at least 1 hour.

### What kind of reaction could I have after receiving a mAb treatment?

Mild reactions at your injection sites are possible and can include:

- Pain
- Bruising of the skin
- Soreness
- Swelling

### How long will an appointment take?

Due to the high demand for mAb treatment, please plan on spending at least 2-hours from the moment you enter the gymnasium to when you get back into your vehicle.

### What should I do after I have had my mAb treatment?

It's important to know that even if you start feeling better, you could still spread the virus for a while. So, you'll need to continue to isolate until all of these things happen:

1. At least 10 days have passed since your first symptoms of COVID-19
2. You haven't had a fever in at least 24 hours, without taking any medicine that reduces fever
3. Your other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

**IMPORTANT:** Follow your healthcare provider's instructions. Your personal health history may require you to meet additional conditions. Also, if you start to feel worse, don't hesitate to seek medical care.

### Who can I contact if I have more questions about mAb treatment?

Call (850) 344-9637 or call your healthcare provider.

### Where can I go to get more information on mAb?

For more information on mAb visit: <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/i-have-covid-19-now/monoclonal-antibodies-high-risk-covid-19-positive-patients>

## Parrish Healthcare Offering COVID vaccinations

Parrish Healthcare is now offering community COVID-19 vaccinations to all members of the community ages 12 and older. Vaccinations are being given by appointment only. Appointments to receive your vaccine can be made through our online registration system at:



[vaccine.parrishmed.com](http://vaccine.parrishmed.com)

Vaccines are being administered at the Parrish Health and Fitness Center located at 2210 Cheney Highway, Titusville. At this time, all appointments currently available are for either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Any individual under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at the time of vaccination and is only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

To register, visit [vaccine.parrishmed.com](http://vaccine.parrishmed.com) or call our COVID-19 vaccine hotline at 321-268-6311.

## Coronavirus Information

[www.parrishhealthcare.com/coronavirus](http://www.parrishhealthcare.com/coronavirus)

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

The COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 at 1 (866) 779-6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

For important updates from the Florida Department of Health, text FLCOVID19 to 888-777.



For additional information about public vaccination plans for Brevard County, call 1.866.779.6121 or email [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

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## Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John

Mary Lena Penna, Director

(321) 633-1867

### PSJ Library Has New Hours

Our new hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am-5 pm, Wednesday 12-8 pm and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.

Meeting rooms are now available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis. Computers are available, and we also offer scanning and wireless printing.

8/26 3:30pm : Storytime for School-Age Kids

8/28 10am-12pm : Port St. John Pokemon League - all ages

Ongoing : Adult and Teen Book Bingo with prizes (See Reference). Weekly take-home craft bags for kids.

Master Gardener visits are paused for the summer.

## About the COVID-19 Virus

Currently, the CDC recommends that anyone ages 12 and older get a vaccine. Vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 are available through urgent care centers, local pharmacies and likely through your personal physician.

The spike in COVID-19 cases in Brevard County is attributed to the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus. Delta is twice as contagious as the original COVID-19. Here are some FAQs on Delta:

What is a coronavirus Variant? If COVID-19 spreads enough, it mutates. Some of the mutations are more dangerous than others. Some "Variants of Concern" (according to the CDC) include: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta.

Are variants normal? All viruses mutate and create variants... unless we eliminate them. And yes, viruses can be eliminated. The best way to stop variants is to stop spread. The best way to stop spread is vaccination.

Can COVID-19 be controlled? Thanks to vaccinations, the following diseases are no longer run rampant in the US. We can do the same with COVID-19!

Polio, Tetanus, Flu, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Rubella, Hib, Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus, Mumps, Chickenpox, Diphtheria. (Source: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/forgot-14-diseases.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/forgot-14-diseases.html))

Do vaccines work against Delta? Yes. All of them are effective against Delta.

Can vaccinated people spread Delta? Yes. Even if a vaccinated person might not show symptoms or get sick, they can still spread Delta.

Please follow CDC recommendations: wash your hands frequently, social distance, use facial covering.

Getting vaxxed doesn't guarantee you won't get COVID 19, but it drastically reduces your chances of severe illness, hospitalization and death.