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VACCINES

and neediest children.

"That's what we're going through on the front lines," Gwynn said. "Local health departments will not be offering the vaccine [for newly eligible children], nor will they participate in the distribution to pediatricians and local family doctors."

The Florida health department and governor's office did not respond to the Herald's request for comment Friday.

Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott, a pediatrician who runs the South Miami Children's Clinic, said she received 100 doses — the minimum amount per order — of the newly approved vaccine Wednesday, two days after placing the request. Carroll-Scott ordered the vaccines through Florida Shots, a joint program between the Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With other COVID vaccines, a doctor could order vaccines in much smaller doses from the county health department.

They arrived faster than she expected, given that the United States was the only state in the country to miss a CDC deadline for pre-ordering the vaccines, and White House officials indicated that deliveries would take longer to reach the state as a result.

As of Friday, however, Carroll-Scott said she had administered the vaccine to only one patient.

"Because we only used one dose," she said, "we had to throw away the vial with nine doses left because [there was] nobody to give it to."

Similar waste has occurred with vaccines for 5- to 11-year-olds, Carroll-Scott said. "We have wasted so many vaccines."

South Florida pediatricians say part of the challenge in vaccinating young patients is that they also must contend with guidance from a state surgeon general who advises against vaccinating healthy children, contrary to recommendations from the CDC, the Food and Drug Administration and pediatric medical associations.

In predominantly Black and Hispanic communities that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, the words of Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo carry much weight because Ladapo is Black, said Carroll-Scott, who also is Black and whose nearly 2,000 pediatric patients are predominantly Black and Hispanic.

Ladapo issued guidance in March stating that "healthy children" younger than 16 years old are at "little to no risk of severe illness," and that for adolescents 16 to 17 years old the vaccine's risks "may outweigh the benefits."

That guidance, Carroll-Scott said, has undermined pediatricians as trusted messengers in their communities.

"Having a surgeon general of color, a Black man, come out against what every other pediatrician or most pediatricians are advising to the parents of these kids regarding the vaccine has really made it difficult for those of us on the ground in communities of color," she said.

IMPACT ON BLACK AND BROWN CHILDREN

Ladapo's guidance, Carroll-Scott said, causes confusion and can exacerbate the pandemic's disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities, who as a group experience relatively poorer health, shorter lifespans and less access to healthcare than whites.

"Here we were in a situation where there's a urgency because Black and brown communities are being disproportionately

affected by the virus," she said, "and we have little information and we're trying to roll out the vaccine and educate at the same time."

Gwynn emphasized that children 5 and older can still get vaccinated against COVID-19 through county health departments in Florida. Only children younger than 5 are excluded.

As a public health advocate and a physician, Gwynn said she is concerned with providing access to as many people as possible, particularly children who are low-income and uninsured.

"This is about equity and access," she said. "Now poor kids [younger than 5], who normally get their vaccines from places out in the community, such as the local health departments, will no longer have access that way."

Those families will have to search for a different provider, Gwynn said, and many low-income families do not have reliable internet access and may have trouble speaking English or finding transportation to take them to an appointment.

And though many parents can also turn to community health centers and pharmacies that carry the vaccines, most pharmacies will not vaccinate children younger than 3 years old due to a federal law that shields medical providers from liability only in cases of children 3 and older.

One of the largest retail providers in Florida — Publix supermarkets — said its stores will not offer the newly approved vaccine for young children "at this time."

PARENTS HAVE MIXED FEELINGS

The Biden administration has said 10 million doses are available for distribution to states and healthcare providers, but only 2.5 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 1.3 million doses of the Moderna vaccine have been ordered to date.

On Thursday, the White House's COVID-19 Response Coordinator, Dr. Ashish Jha, said more than 4 million doses have been delivered to about 13,000 sites across the country.

While some parents have been eagerly awaiting the vaccine's availability, it's not clear how many will vaccinate their infants and toddlers.

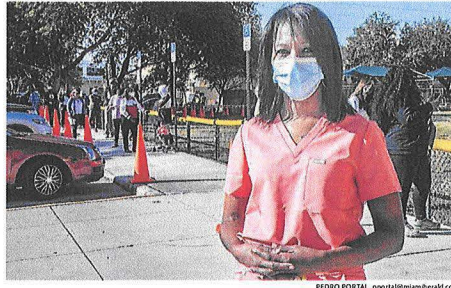
About 1 in 5 parents of children under 5 said they wanted to vaccinate their child "right away" once federal regulators authorized the shots, according to an April 2022 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonprofit group that analyzes national health issues.

More than a third of parents said they would wait and see how the vaccine works in other children, and about 1 in 4 reported they would "definitely not" have their children vaccinated. Another 11% said they would vaccinate their kids "only if required."

"Probably part of the reason parents are hesitant is that many kids have had COVID, but we know that people can get it again," Dr. Thresia Gambon, a pediatrician with Citrus Health Network, a community health center with clinics in Miami-Dade, said in an email. "The vaccine may have side effects in some children, but we need to weigh that with the illness itself, or the potential for long COVID."

COVID DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN

About 1,500 children younger than 18 have died from COVID-19, according to CDC data. And children also run a risk of long COVID, or symptoms that last for months or more after the initial infection has passed. A recent study,



Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott, director of South Miami Children's Clinic, said she had to throw away nine doses of COVID vaccine for children under 5. She says Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo's message against vaccinating healthy children undermines doctors.

which has to be peer reviewed, indicates that repeated re-infection raises the risk of an adverse outcome.

Though children as a group have not experienced the same degree of serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 as adults and the elderly, Gwynn said they remain at risk for long-term health effects from infection.

In February, the CDC found that 75% of all children and adolescents in the United States had evidence of a previous infection, with about one-third becoming newly infected since December 2021 during the omicron wave.

Florida's health department reports that about 193,000, or nearly 17% of the more than 1.1 million children younger than 5 in Florida, have tested positive for COVID-19 during the pandemic, including an estimated 2,800 cases confirmed the week ended June 16.

Possibly the best barometer for forecasting demand will be the rollout of vaccines for 5- to 11-year-olds in November 2021, when demand initially rose but then dropped two weeks later.

More than seven months after the authorization for 5- to 11-year-olds to be vaccinated, about 24%, or 1 in 4 of the nearly 1.7 million Florida kids in that age group, have received at least one dose of vaccine, according to the health department. Nationally, the figure is nearly 30%.

ONE COUPLE'S MAJOR PRECAUTIONS

In South Florida, some parents jumped at the chance to vaccinate their young children. For them, the newly approved vaccines are the beginning of the end of more than two years of precautions and concern about their babies, toddlers and preschool children who were the last Americans to be afforded effective protection against serious illness, hospitalization and death.

Dan Goodfriend of North Miami Beach said he was prepared to drive out of state to get his 15-month-old daughter, Ava, vaccinated if he couldn't find a place closer to home.

But Goodfriend was able to get his daughter vaccinated through a local clinical trial with vaccine manufacturer Moderna on June 10, about one week before the CDC and Food and Drug Administration authorized the vaccines for children as young as 6 months old.

Goodfriend said he and his wife, whose name he asked to keep private, spent years trying to have a baby, going through in vitro fertilization or IVF treatments and, whose failed, choosing to adopt. But the pandemic struck while the Goodfriends were in the adoption process, forcing them to pause, he said.

Then, to their surprise, Goodfriend said, his wife became pregnant in summer 2020.

The family has not eaten indoors at a restaurant, or gone to an indoor movie theater, or attended a concert during the pandemic. Goodfriend said he and his family also wear face

masks whenever they're in a public place. They take great precautions, Goodfriend said, because he has asthma and the couple aren't willing to risk the health of a child they tried for so long and so hard to conceive.

"We've been leading a very cloistered life, going to what I think the majority of people would think are extreme lengths to keep her from getting infected," Goodfriend said. "I know I'm in the minority, but frankly I think I'm right about this. I think the rest of the world has become far too cavalier about it."

Goodfriend said he feels frustrated still taking precautions. "It feels like the world has moved on and left us behind, like we don't matter," he said.

But, he added, "I don't think anybody else should be in a position to decide what level of risk is appropriate for my daughter."

Other parents, like Paul Behar of Pembroke Pines, said they want to wait for more research with the newly approved vaccines. Even then, Behar said, he may not vaccinate his daughter, Rose, who just turned 5.

"I'm in the wait-and-see approach, if you want to describe it as that, or maybe even a don't-do-it approach," he said.

Behar said he wants to see if there are long-term effects from the vaccines, but he's also doubtful that the shots will prevent her from getting COVID-19. And if she does, Behar said, he thinks she'll beat it on her own.

"My daughter has great health and is a very active child, lots of extracurricular activities, lots of outdoors time, healthy diet, nutrition," Behar said, echoing the Florida health department's COVID-19 prevention guidance. "It's important that we're prioritizing healthy lifestyle, and that is almost always the best prevention for disease."

VACCINE DRIVES ON SUNDAY

South Florida hospitals and county governments are planning public vaccination campaigns for newly eligible children. Nomi Health, a private company that provides COVID-19 vaccines and testing at public sites throughout Miami-Dade, will hold

vaccine drives for children 6 months and older on Sunday at Miami-Dade's Tropical Park, Dolphin Mall, Zoo Miami and other locations.

Vaccines are free for most, regardless of insurance status. But Nomi said it will charge those without a valid U.S. address and no health insurance \$40 for the vaccine.

Gwynn also conducts outreach with mobile clinics that bring vaccines to schools, community centers and other public areas free of charge and without an appointment. UHealth provides a monthly schedule at pediatricpublicclinic.com and at 305-243-6407.

JACKSON GETS VACCINES

At Jackson Health System's Holtz Children's Hospital in Miami, pharmacists have about 100 doses of the vaccine in cold storage, and plan to order more if there's demand, said Venessa Goodnow, chief pharmacy officer.

Goodnow said the vaccines arrived this past week, and they'll be distributed at Holtz and through Jackson Health's primary care clinics in Miami-Dade.

Goodnow said she expects that infants in the first year of life may be more likely to get vaccinated because they have more frequent doctor visits, giving pediatricians more chances to talk to their parents, than older children who may only have annual visits.

But she doesn't know how many parents will want to vaccinate their young children.

"It will be interesting to see what the interest is for this age group," Goodnow said. "We're not sure what it will look like."

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CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL OF DESIGN REVIEW BOARD ORDER

JULY 8, 2022

The Miami Beach City Commission, pursuant to Section 118-9 of the Miami Beach City Code, will hear oral argument on July 8, 2022, at 9:01 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Commission Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida, to consider an appeal filed by Carriage House Condominium Association, Inc., The Amethyst Condominium Association, Inc., Thomas Hahn, Jacqueline Rebhun, and David Sebbag (the "Appellants"), of a City of Miami Beach Design Review Board Order (DRB), issued under DRB 21-0694, granting design review approval to allow 5333 Collins Acquisitions, LP, to build a 17-story, 200-foot-tall multifamily condominium at 5333 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, 33140 (City Commission Appeal File No. SM2022-001) (altogether, the "Appeal").

During the July 8, 2022 Commission Meeting, the City Commission will be physically present in the Commission Chamber. The public is encouraged to attend this hearing virtually (as provided below). However, members of the public who wish to attend the hearing in person may appear at the Commission Chamber.

The hearing will be broadcast live on Miami Beach TV (MBTV), viewable on the City's website at <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/government/mbtv/>, as well as on BreezeLine Cable channel 660, AT&T U-verse channel 99, HotWire Communications channel 395, and ROKU device on PEG-TV channel. The hearing will also be broadcast on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach> and on the Zoom App at <https://miamibeachfl.gov.zoom.us/j/81392857671>. The public may listen to the hearing by dialing: 1.301.715.8592 or 888.475.4499 (Toll-Free) Webinar ID: 81392857671#.

The City Commission's review of the appeal shall be based on the record of the hearing before the DRB, shall not be a public hearing, and no new or additional testimony shall be taken. A verbatim transcript of the DRB hearing shall be made a part of the record and filed by the Petitioner. The standard of review is (i) whether the DRB provided procedural due process, (ii) whether the correct law was observed, and (iii) whether competent substantial evidence supported the DRB's decision. To reverse or remand a decision of the DRB, a five-sevenths (5/7) vote of the City Commission is required.

All documents pertaining to DRB File No. 21-0694 are available for public inspection by making an appointment with the Planning Department by calling 305.673.7000 Extension 27550 or Extension 26144. The pleadings relating to City Commission Appeal File No. SM2022-001 are available for public inspection by making an appointment with the Office of the City Clerk by calling 305.673.7000 Extension 26228.

To request this material in an alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any City-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2489 and select option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

The City Commission's review of the Appeal may be opened and continued, and under such circumstances, additional legal notice need not be provided.

Inquiries may be directed to the Planning Department at 305.673.7550 or the Office of the City Attorney at 305.673.7470.

MIAMI BEACH
A4-07092022-04 DRB

Rafael E. Granada, City Clerk
City of Miami Beach