

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**UF HEALTH JACKSONVILLE TELECONFERENCE - COVID 19 UPDATE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Telephone conference call

**In attendance:** Council Members Hazouri, Carlucci, and Salem (other Council Members may have been listening to the teleconference but not identified)

**Also**: Dr. Leon Haley and Aaron Bean - UF Health Jacksonville; Anthony Baltiero – Council Research Division; Mayor Ellen Glasser – City of Atlantic Beach; Mayor Chris Hoffman – City of Jacksonville Beach (other public officials may have been listening to the teleconference but not identified)

**Meeting Convened**: 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Leon Haley, CEO of UF Health Jacksonville, opened the teleconference by welcoming the attendees and by providing updated statistics regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. UF Health Jacksonville has administered approximately 35,000 vaccines (mostly Pfizer) predominantly at the downtown campus. They have the ability to administer 1,100 vaccines per day. There have been 2.9 million deaths from COVID-19 worldwide and 33,000+ deaths in Florida. There have been 91,000 cases in Jacksonville with 2,000 hospitalizations, and 1,300 deaths. COVID diagnosis are trending toward younger people due to the early vaccination of the older population. 60% of Floridians aged 65 or older have had at least their first vaccination shot. Dr. Haley encouraged people to get any of the three vaccines that are available to them (Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson). UF health Jacksonville has started to allow visitors back into the hospitals with patients being allowed two visitors. The dominant variant in the USA is the “UK Variant” and there is still research being conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of the vaccines on the variant. As of now, anyone aged 16+ is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Currently, 19% of the USA population is fully vaccinated and 33% have received their first vaccination dose. By June 16th, 70% of the eligible USA population will be fully vaccinated and by July 23rd, 90% will be fully vaccinated. Herd immunity will occur when the entire population is 75-80% fully vaccinated. There are current studies regarding the efficacy of the vaccines on children aged 12+. Dr. Haley said that the medical workforce is tired from this past year and encourages the continued support from the general public.

In non-COVID news, the UF Health Jacksonville system will have 142 graduates over the next month or so. Three of the graduates have chosen to stay at UF Health Jacksonville for their residency. Currently the UF Health Jacksonville system has 374 residents and is the 4th largest training hospital system in the state. The downtown campus is undergoing infrastructure renovations, including upgrades to the generators, HVAC system, and roofing. There is new construction off of Kernan Blvd. of a 40,000 square foot building that will be used as new surgical and clinic space with plans of opening on March 4th, 2022. There is a new wellness program for veterans that is being funded by a grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation Avalon Network. The program will open by the end of September. There are some Uf Health events coming up, including on April 22nd and May 20th there will be UF speaker series events, on April 28th there will be a Youth Education for the Advancement of Health event, and mid-May will be UF Health Week. Following the presentation, the floor was opened to questions.

Dr. Bill Amos asked about the length of the immunity following the vaccination. Dr. Haley said that the immunity should last at least 6 months and thinks it will be for longer. The challenge is that the variants may require additional booster shots down the line or a new stronger vaccine, but the research is still being conducted on that front.

A text question came through asking Dr. Haley about his thoughts on the vaccine passport idea. Dr. Haley says that it is a bad idea and would cause more issues than benefits. The best course is to get vaccinated and encourage others to get vaccinated.

Dr. Haley closed the meeting by encouraging people to not delay other health services because of the pandemic and to continue to see their doctors regularly.

UF Health’s next teleconference update will be in May (date and time TBD).

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:27 a.m.

Minutes: Anthony J. Baltiero, Council Research Division

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