

## State of Florida Federally-Supported Vaccination Sites Overview

### **Purpose and Scope:**

As part of a national effort to increase COVID-19 vaccine access to underserved populations, the federal government is establishing new federally-supported vaccination sites in addition to ongoing state COVID-19 vaccine operations.

The *State of Florida Federally-Supported Vaccination Sites* document serves as a fluid high-level overview document for vaccination operations supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through requests for federal assistance.

This document assigns roles and responsibilities in accordance with guidance published by FEMA, existing State of Florida plans and protocols, and best practices as identified at existing State-Run and State-Supported Vaccination Points of Dispensing (PODs).

The Concept of Operations and roles identified in this overview pertain to PODs that are being supported with direct federal assistance from FEMA. This overview also incorporates any mobile PODs or “spokes” that are affiliated with fixed or “hub” PODs receiving direct federal assistance, even if the spoke POD does not receive direct federal assistance.

### **Objectives:**

These federally-supported sites are being established as part of a joint mission through the federal and state government to increase vaccine access to underserved populations in or near Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade and Orange counties. These vaccination sites are intended to expand the rate of vaccinations in an efficient, effective and equitable manner. The federally-supported sites will support the following objectives:

- Increase accessibility of State of Florida vaccination operations to Florida residents that are considered socially vulnerable or part of targeted demographics, and
- Integrate and coordinate support for four federally-supported vaccination sites, and
- Ensure operations at federally-supported vaccination sites meet the requirements for direct federal assistance, as outlined in FEMA’s [Community Vaccination Centers Playbook Version 2.0](#).

### **Background:**

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) have established a Unified Command to coordinate with state agencies, County Emergency Management agencies and the public health industry to ensure the rapid distribution of vaccines to Florida residents.

As part of a national effort to increase COVID-19 vaccine access to underserved populations, the federal government is establishing new federally-supported vaccination sites in addition to ongoing state COVID-19 vaccine operations.

To execute these efforts, FEMA and the Florida State Emergency Response Team are following a “Hub-and-Spoke” model to maximize potential of reaching socially vulnerable populations. Hub locations were determined by the federal government and spoke locations were determined by the state with feedback and guidance from local governments.



FEMA and the Florida State Emergency Response Team have established four fixed POD sites (Hubs) and two satellite sites per each Hub. Each Hub can administer 3,000 doses per day. Each satellite site can administer up to 500 doses per day.

Hub locations were identified using a range of criteria, most central to those is the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). This tool was created to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event. The index takes into consideration critical data points, including socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, languages, housing type and transportation. The federal government selected the hub locations based on the following:

### **Jacksonville**

- **Duval County** was identified as one of nine counties in the state with significantly underserved/marginalized populations. Duval County is geographically isolated from the eight other counties and is the only one in North Florida.
- In **Duval County**, there's currently a 15.5% poverty rate, and nearly half of the population are minorities. 13.5% of the population has a disability and 13.4% of the population is over 65 years old. 2.7% of the population has a limited English proficiency, and 8.1% of households do not have a vehicle.

### **Tampa**

- **Hillsborough County** was identified as one of nine counties in the state with significantly underserved/marginalized populations. This CVC hub and its spokes can also serve part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida population and communities with high SVI ratings such as Lake Alfred, Lakeland and Bowling Green.
- In **Hillsborough County**, there's currently a 15.3% poverty rate, and more than half of the population are minorities. 13.8% of the population has a disability and 13.8% of the population is over 65 years old. More than 6% of the population has a limited English proficiency, and nearly 7% of households do not have a vehicle.

### **Miami**

- **Miami-Dade County** was identified as one of nine counties in the state with significantly underserved/marginalized populations. The county population is principally composed of minority residents and it has the third highest SVI score of all counties examined. Its expansive vulnerable population has the fifth lowest percentage of population vaccinated.
- In **Miami-Dade County**, there's currently a 18% poverty rate, and 86.6% of the population are minorities. 10.1% of the population has a disability and 15.6% of the population is over 65 years old. More than one-fifth of the population has a limited English proficiency, and one in 10 households does not have a vehicle.

### **Orlando**



- **Orange County** was identified as one of nine counties in the state with significantly underserved/marginalized populations. This CVC hub and its spokes will also serve communities with high SVI ratings such as Highlands, Lockhart and Winter Garden.
- In **Orange County**, there's currently a 16.1% poverty rate, and more than half of the population are minorities. 10.9% of the population has a disability and 11.4% of the population is over 65 years old. 6% of the population has a limited English proficiency, and 6% of households do not have a vehicle.

The "Spoke" sites, also referred to as satellite sites, will be semi-fixed sites that will rotate to different locations throughout the operation. Each site can administer up to 500 vaccines per day and will relocate every three to seven days to reach as many residents as possible. The satellite sites will return to previous locations to administer second doses.

As per Executive Order 21-47, the current populations have been prioritized to receive COVID-19 vaccines:

- Long-term care facility residents and staff;
- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- Health care personnel with direct patients;
- K-12 school employees 50 years of ages and older;
- Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of ages and older; and
- Firefighters 50 years of age and older.

The federally-supported sites will follow the most current Executive Order when determining which individuals will be vaccinated at the federally-supported sites.

At this time, this operation is expected to last eight weeks (March 3, 2021 – April 28, 2021). This operation may be extended based on a variety of factors, including, but not limited to, increased vaccine allocations, success of operations and resource availability.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

#### **Federal Government Jurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities**

The Vaccine Task Force at the FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) will coordinate federal resources for the state-run, federally-supported vaccination PODs. The Regional Area Coordinator and FEMA liaison at the SEOC will coordinate with the RRCC and report to the Vaccination Task Force, who will inform the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).

The RRCC is administratively responsible for all assigned resources, including overhead staff. FEMA will coordinate the Mission Assignment for Title 10 clinical and non-clinical staff as well as a FEMA liaison onsite for each POD location. FEMA will coordinate services or resources that exceed state capabilities as requested through Resource Request Forms (RRFs).

#### **State of Florida Jurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities**

The State of Florida, through the Florida State Emergency Response Team, will provide overall command and control to all sites. The SERT remains ultimately responsible for site activities



and is responsible for all staffing and logistics not specifically stated as being provided by FEMA through an approved RRF or by local governments through mutual aid.

Specifically, the SERT will coordinate:

- Logistics support to hub and spoke sites,
- Outreach and preregistration activities,
- Situational awareness and reporting for the sites,
- Requesting additional resources as needed from FEMA through RRFs,
- Coordinate with local governments for resource support and community affairs, and
- Supply personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed to the sites.

### **Local Government Jurisdictional Roles and Responsibilities**

Local governments will support state and federal operations by augmenting messaging outreach regarding PODs and registration information to their residents. Local governments may assist in identifying potential populations and neighborhoods to target for vaccination operations.

Specifically, local governments will:

- Identify potential spoke sites in their communities,
- Provide security and traffic control through statewide mutual aid agreements as possible,
- Assist with outreach and preregistration of residents, and
- Augment state and federal messaging.

### **Concept of Operations:**

The State of Florida, in collaboration with FEMA, will establish four “Hub” sites in federally-approved jurisdictions, will establish four (4) “Hub” sites in federally approved jurisdictions. These sites can administer 3,000 vaccine doses per day. FEMA will provide clinical and clerical staff along with a FEMA liaison for these Hub sites. All other staffing needs will be met by the SERT. In addition to these hub sites, the SERT will coordinate the establishment of smaller “spoke” sites within each selected jurisdiction to administer up to 500 vaccines per day.

At this time, operations at these federally-supported sites will last eight weeks. After the first three weeks of vaccinations, priority for appointments will be given to individuals returning to the site for their second dose.

The Concept of Operations section will provide additional details for site selection, hub sites, spoke sites and vaccination operations.

### **Site Selection:**

The State of Florida identified and submitted a proposal for potential jurisdictions to be approved by FEMA. Sites were evaluated based on the following:

- Must have a secure area to temporarily store equipment and materials.
- Must be able to accommodate cooling equipment.
- Must have a designated waiting area for individuals to wait and be observed post-administration.
- Should be accessible to the population receiving the vaccine.



- Should have clear points of entry and exit that can be maintained by on-site security.
- Should be a dedicated site to minimize accidental traffic and unnecessary throughput.
- Should have a parking area that can accommodate the anticipated number of individuals.

### **Hub Sites:**

Hub sites are the four fixed sites in Miami, Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville, that can each administer 3,000 vaccines per day. These sites will remain operational for the duration of the eight-week federal mission. After eight weeks, the state will determine if there is a continued need for the site to operate at the existing location.

Hub sites were selected based on the feasibility of a site to support 3,000 vaccine administrations per day and the site's accessibility to community residents. When selecting a site for a hub, priority was given to counties with a FEMA Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) of .6500 or higher, indicating high social vulnerability.

Additionally, each hub site is accessible by local public transportation. This was considered during initial site assessments.

These sites are walk-up locations and appointments will not be required. However, through outreach efforts conducted by state and local governments and community partners, appointments can be scheduled for eligible individuals.

### **Spoke Sites:**

Each Hub site will support two satellite sites that will rotate locations throughout the operation. The state will use these satellite sites to assist with providing vaccines to communities not readily serviced by each hub. Each satellite site can administer up to 500 vaccines per day.

It is intended that satellite sites will change locations every seven days, but at minimum will remain in a fixed location for at least three days. Satellite sites will return to the community to administer second doses. In collaboration with local governments, the state is using the following criteria for the selection of satellite sites:

- Census tracts with an SVI rating of .5000 or above, with highest priority given to tracts with an SVI over .6000, and
- Census tracts with mobility limitations as qualified by low rates of vehicle ownership by household and limited public transportation options, and
- Census tracts with a high population of residents who are 65 and older, and
- Areas with low vaccination rates, and
- Neighborhoods not serviced by existing POD sites.

Satellite site schedules will be released weekly at [FloridaDisaster.org/Vaccine](https://FloridaDisaster.org/Vaccine).

### **Vaccine Operations:**

Upon arrival at the site, individuals will be directed to the "Check-In" station and staff will either locate their appointment or register them as a walk-up. The individual will then be asked to provide identification as they relate to the requirements listed in EO 21-47.



All individuals will be screened on site and have their temperature taken. After this, individuals will move to the waiting area and wait to receive their vaccine.

After the individual has received their vaccine, they will be placed in the monitoring area for 15 to 30 minutes. This area will be staffed to monitor reactions from the vaccine.

After individuals leave the monitoring area, they will have the opportunity to schedule their second dose appointment.

All sites through this mission will accept walk-up appointments for eligible individuals.

### **Appointments**

Appointments are not required at the federally-supported COVID-19 vaccination sites. The goal is to increase COVID-19 vaccine access to underserved populations and as such, walk-ups will be encouraged at all hub and spoke sites.

If an individual arrives to the site and all time slots are filled for that day, site staff will work with them to schedule an appointment at the site to receive a vaccine. Individuals can also schedule appointments on site in a separate registration lane if they do not want to wait for walk-up availability.

Appointments will be primarily filled through proactive outreach strategies later outlined in this document.

Eligible individuals can indicate they would like contacted to receive an appointment at a federally-supported site either by calling the designated number for their county or providing their information to the statewide preregistration system at [MyVaccine.FL.gov](https://MyVaccine.FL.gov).

### **Outreach and Registration**

In order to ensure underserved populations are receiving priority and increased access to these sites, the State of Florida will utilize whole community communication strategies for targeted outreach in selected jurisdictions.

Outreach will be targeted specifically for underserved populations. These sites are being established to increase COVID-19 vaccine access to underserved populations and the state is prioritizing outreach to those populations specifically for the federally-supported sites.

The State Emergency Response Team has coordinated with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners to identify populations within the jurisdiction who may not be accessible via traditional methods for direct outreach.

The SERT continues to coordinate directly with local social service organizations who have established relationships with the communities to conduct on-the-ground outreach through registration events, the distribution of flyers, household canvassing and word of mouth.

In addition to traditional media and social media outreach, the state is executing the following outreach methods:

- Canvassing staff reaching out in a door-to-door campaign that targets minority and underserved communities to proactively register eligible individuals, and



- Hosting registration events with local community partners, such as places of worship, to register eligible individuals for vaccine appointments at the federally-supported sites, and
- Providing supplemental messaging to the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration and other partner organizations, so they may proactively target their clients, and
- Engaging local community organizers to augment messaging efforts and encourage individuals in their communities to receive the vaccine at a federally-supported sites, and
- Developing flyers to be distributed throughout the communities and establishing LED billboards to be strategically placed throughout targeted communities.

As the state continues to adapt to the needs of the federally-supported sites, outreach methods may also change.

Eligible individuals who have also provided their information to the statewide preregistration system will also be proactively contacted to schedule an appointment at the federally-supported vaccination sites.

The state continues to work with local governments to identify locations for registration events. These locations should be easily accessible and well-recognized within the community, including but not limited to, local libraries, places of worship and community centers.

#### **Site Accommodations:**

All sites will have the following accommodations:

- American Sign Language interpreters on site,
- Bilingual staff on site,
- Wheelchair accessibility, and
- Accommodations for the visually impaired.

Additional accommodations can be made, if necessary. Site staff will work with all individuals to make any necessary on-site accommodations.

Additionally, all federally-supported vaccination sites will have ALS capable EMS providers on-site.

