



Isaiah Rumlin
President

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

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Mayor Lenny Curry
Jacksonville City Hall
117 W. Duval St., Suite 400
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mayor Curry:

We are confronting the most challenging public health emergency of our lifetime. Neither the State of Florida nor the City of Jacksonville have revealed a comprehensive plan or the operational capacity to implement the mass vaccination campaign required to vaccinate hundreds of thousands of people in our community. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose the failures of our public health systems, the pervasive structural and institutional racism that permeates our community, and the inequities that confront us. The NAACP, Jacksonville Urban League, the Northeast Florida Medical Society (NEFMS), First Coast Black Nurses and other Allied Health Professionals profess great concern that after more than 11 months of sickness and death, the City has not delineated to the general Public any plans or concerns as it relates to addressing the specific needs of the African American community/Communities of Color at achieving Equity in combatting this pandemic especially as it relates to education and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Jacksonville NAACP, the Northeast Florida Medical Society, the Jacksonville Urban League as well as many other community leadership organizations have not been involved with any planning for vaccinating the African American community—the community they care for every day. The current chaos confronting us is a validation of the failure of our City and Public Health system.

There are three primary factors that should be considered in determining priority populations for vaccination:

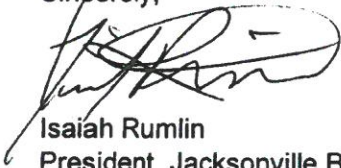
- a) risk for morbidity and mortality,
- b) benefits accrued by vaccinating, and
- c) equity.

In this regard, we are requesting the following:

- That there be an identified person delivering messages from the Health Department and/or City.
- That there be a local decision-making body made up of public and community leaders designated to prioritize the distribution of the vaccine.
- Equity must be considered in all policy decisions.
- The current Vaccine Distribution Plan must be disseminated immediately even if in draft form.
- Ensure transparency and uniform reporting.
- Establish metrics to monitor the mass vaccination campaign and ongoing pandemic response.

- Identify and secure funding sources to ensure adequate resources to implement the mass vaccination campaign and sustain the response to the Pandemic. Recent federal legislation includes funding to support these efforts.
- Expand the number of vaccination and testing sites, ensuring that communities of color within the city are adequately covered. The extra-large land mass that makes up the City of Jacksonville demands that site list must include: Senior Citizen resident Homes in Health Zones 1 and, 2; Health Zone 5 because it has the most cases of infections in Duval County; TIAA stadium (for Jacksonville's Eastside); Shoppes of Sherwood on Soutel Road; availability of 1 or more mobile Units to allow a more inclusive attempt at serving those that are disenfranchised for vaccine administration (technologically challenged appointment system).
- Expand contact tracing, and other evidence-based strategies to stop the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Funding to Family Practice Physicians to increase their capacity to be a vaccine site.

Sincerely,



Isaiah Rumlin
President, Jacksonville Branch NAACP



Dr. Richard Danford,
President, Jacksonville Urban League



Dr. Rogers Cain, MD
President, Northeast Florida Medical Society Foundation



Dr. Carol Jenkins-Neil
President, First Coast Black Nurses Association