



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

March 17, 2021

Director Rochelle P. Walensky
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Walensky,

Congratulations on your appointment as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the national vaccination campaign continues to expand and we look to rebounding and reinvigorating our economy, Miami-Dade County is ready to work with you to establish a plan to safely re-open the cruising industry. In line with President Biden's efforts targeting July 4 as a date that American families will be ready to once again safely celebrate with their families, it's my goal that the cruise industry will also be in a position to restart operations by then.

Restarting cruising is critically important to saving hundreds of thousands of good-paying American jobs, including thousands of unionized longshore (ILA and ILWU) positions. In Miami-Dade County alone, cruise activity generates approximately \$7 billion and 40,000 jobs annually. It supports multiple sectors of the economy from ground to air transportation, food and beverage, lodging, manufacturing, agriculture, travel agencies, hotels, port services, and a broad range of industries that stretch across the U.S.

Miami-Dade County and our local PortMiami partners have taken numerous steps to prepare for the safe restart of passenger operations at the Cruise Capital of the World. Our County is already operating under the health and safety protocols established by the CDC, with continued communication between PortMiami, the cruise industry, and the CDC Miami Quarantine Station. We are working to establish an on-site COVID testing lab at PortMiami – the first of its kind in the country. And in recent days, multiple cruise companies have announced new policies requiring passengers and/or crew to be vaccinated when cruising restarts.

The CDC can issue similar guidance to what countries like Israel have outlined – re-opening cruising only to vaccinated passengers and requiring all crew and port employees to be vaccinated to ensure public health.

It is important to note that the cruise lines are not seeking federal assistance. We support their efforts to get back to work safely, helping hundreds of thousands of Americans who rely on the cruise industry to support themselves and their families.

We know that better, healthier days lie ahead. I respectfully request a meeting with you and my administration to discuss how we can advance the resumption of U.S. cruise operations, as we work together to protect lives and livelihoods for Miami-Dade County residents and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava