



STATE OF FLORIDA

# DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Kevin Guthrie**  
Director

January 5, 2022

Secretary Xavier Becerra  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

This week, the Florida Department of Health was notified that logistical preparations to send 30,000 additional monoclonal antibody doses to Florida are underway. The state looks forward to receiving these doses so we can expand capacity at treatment sites and quickly deploy this treatment throughout the state.

To expedite the deployment of this treatment, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) is offering to supplement current distribution efforts by executing pre-existing State trucking and shipping contracts to retrieve the doses directly from federal government storage. FDEM is thoroughly experienced in moving resources quickly and is prepared to assist the federal government in deploying this lifesaving treatment. We have personnel on standby who can obtain the treatment within the week.

We are willing and eager to offer our assistance and secure these additional doses. We know this treatment saves lives and we want this treatment to be readily available to Floridians who need it the most.

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida pioneered the widespread use of monoclonals as an early treatment to prevent serious illness and hospitalizations of Floridians. Over the summer, the State mobilized dozens of monoclonal antibody sites to ensure Floridians had access to this lifesaving treatment.

To support ongoing monoclonal antibody treatment operations and in anticipation of an increase in demand for early treatment, FDEM requested and received more than \$800 million from the Florida Legislature in November. Through extensive preparation, FDEM can set-up treatment sites within 24-48 hours. In response to the recent omicron variant surge, FDEM identified potential site locations in Broward, Collier, Duval, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Seminole counties. Essentially - we are prepared to receive these additional doses immediately.

FDEM stands ready to assist our federal partners. We believe in strong state and federal partnerships to ensure all available resources are being used to respond to COVID-19. I encourage you to consider our offer so we can continue to save the lives of Floridians and prevent the strain of COVID-19 on the state's hospital systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Guthrie".

Kevin Guthrie  
Director

CC: Gracia Szczech, Regional Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 4  
Jeanne Eckes, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 4