



MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINES FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN RESPONSE TO SPECIAL NEEDS

WHO: 50 Visually Impaired Miami Lighthouse Adult Program Participants

WHERE: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
601 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33130

WHEN: Wednesday, March 10
Beginning at 9 a.m.

DETAILS: Media is invited to attend and interview Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Program Participants as The Florida Department of Health will provide COVID-19 vaccines to those who have yet to be inoculated. This service is being offered in recognition of the special difficulties that the visually impaired have experienced throughout the year-long pandemic period and during the vaccination effort.

The visually impaired rely on their sense of touch to navigate through their surroundings, increasing the chances of their coming in physical contact with the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, persons with visual impairments have particular difficulty with social distancing protocols and securing transportation to vaccine sites.

“Sighted people have the added advantage of seeing who is in front of them and how far, or whether others are around them in close quarters,” said Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko who is blind. “For example, I have had experiences in which I have entered elevators without knowing others were already there. These circumstances make COVID-19 avoidance efforts much more challenging and create an element of added anxiety about catching the virus.”

This vaccine opportunity is open only to Miami Lighthouse program participants and is not open to the general public.