

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Seniors Applaud Vaccine Assistance From the Florida Department of Elder Affairs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Elder Affairs' (DOEA) **'We Will Meet You at Home'** campaign, in affiliation with [other agencies and programs](#), is ensuring that every senior who wants a shot receives a shot. Since vaccines became available, DOEA and the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been offering seniors access to transportation to go and receive a vaccine. Elders also have the option of having a health care worker bring the vaccine to their front door. Here is what people are saying about DOEA's homebound vaccine program.

"I was encouraged by all the information Governor DeSantis was giving to the public; I'm so grateful he stood up for seniors," said **Nancy, an older resident in Tallahassee**. "I'm 79 and getting the vaccine made me feel safer when people needed to visit me at home. I had rheumatic fever as a child and I'm a diabetic, so I knew I wanted to get the vaccine as soon as possible. And I had no reaction to it, a little bit of a sore arm for a day, but it was nothing. I'm so glad I got a vaccine."

"I want to thank DOEA and my local Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas County for calling and following up on my mother's second vaccine," said **Kathy, a caregiver for her mother in St. Petersburg**. "The helpline coordinator scheduled a time for us and DeliverRx was right on time and very friendly. A health care professional sterilized my mom's arm, gave her the shot, and boom, it was done! The whole process was very quick, efficient, and very professional too."

"A social worker through The Senior Connection Center called, and they asked me about any senior citizens in my house; they asked me if I needed any help," said **Matthew, a caregiver for his parents in Polk County**. "I said, yes, yes, of course I need help. I visit my parents twice each day because they are not able to drive. My parents received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in their house and now family is able to visit them again after a very long time. We are all so appreciative."

"Everything was so easy. The local senior center created an appointment for us, and two ladies came to our house," said **Angel, a caregiver to his father in Auburndale**. "I think the most convenient thing was I didn't have to take him anywhere. They came here and they came on time, and they were so nice with us. It just took a couple of minutes. There was some paperwork, and they asked me a couple of questions, but it was fast. I'm telling you everything was excellent—everything!"

"My mom goes to an Adult Day Program in Melbourne, through the Senior Resource Alliance, and you can't beat the program they got there," said **John Connelly, a caregiver to his mom in Brevard County**. "They bring people in to sing and play the piano and do activities with

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them to keep their minds active; it's a Cadillac program. The Adult Day Center scheduled a vaccine appointment for her, and she took advantage of the transportation. Everything was very smooth. It's just an awesome program.”

The **'We Will Meet You at Home'** campaign employs radio and television spots in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. You may listen and see all the spots here: <https://elderaffairs.org/newsroom/well-meet-you-at-home-campaign/>

The Department's Area Agencies on Aging connect seniors with community providers to get a ride to a doctor's office, a pharmacy, a grocery store, or another vaccination site. The local AAAs may also assist in arranging a health care professional to come to the individual's house to receive a vaccination.

If you or someone you know would like assistance with transportation to a COVID-19 vaccination appointment or would like a health provider to bring a shot to your front door, then the Department's AAAs are here to help. Call **1-800-96 ELDER** or email homeboundvaccine@em.myflorida.com.

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About the Florida Department of Elder Affairs

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. The Department provides most direct services through its Division of Statewide Community-Based Services, the state's eleven Area Agencies on Aging, and local service providers to deliver essential services to a vital segment of the population. For more information, please visit www.elderaffairs.org.