CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC | Q&A
Everyone will need a booster shot

Health officials recommend third vaccine doses for all Americans.

U.S. health officials on Wednesday recommended that all U.S. vaccinated individuals should get a COVID-19 booster shot — even as 40 percent of the population has yet to receive their first dose.

Americans who received either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines should get a booster dose eight months after they received their second shot of the two-dose mRNA vaccines, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. About 134 million U.S. residents are eligible for the booster, the agency shows. That recommendation comes as daily COVID-19 cases have surged from about 10,000 a day in early July to more than 100,000 infections a day this month, severely taxing hospital systems in the hardest-hit states, including Florida.

More than 90 percent of COVID cases are believed to be caused by the highly infectious delta variant of the virus. The vaccinated can catch and transmit the variant in some cases, but vaccines help shield them from the worst symptoms. The unvaccinated have no such protections, however, and account for most infections and deaths in the U.S.

Concern about the delta variant prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday to recommend a third dose for around 9 million Americans whose immune systems are moderately to severely compromised.

By Christopher Dowling 
Tampa Bay Times

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BY MARLIE DEMAS 
Times Staff Writer

Hillsborough County School Board voted 7-1 Wednesday to require students, teachers and staff wear masks for the next 30 days, starting today.

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sequence from the state Department of Education, which has threatened action against districts that don't comply, including pulling state funding from the worst-spectators against their political leaders on the issue.

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By Jayce Crowlin

One of Tampa Bay’s largest private companies is returning to the public market in a merger that values the combined firm at more than $2 billion.

Syniverse, a telecoms solutions company that specializes in the sort of data that mobile companies need, will merge with publicly traded M3-Brigade Acquisition II Corp., a vehicle that values the firm at $1.3 billion, according to a news release.

"According to the agreement, the Syniverse company will return to the public stock exchange under the name Syniverse Technologies Corporation and ticker symbol "SYNV." It's familiar territory for Syniverse, which was once one of Tampa Bay’s largest publicly traded companies until it was sold to private equity firm The Carlyle Group in 2011 for $2.6 billion in cash.

"We are excited to announce that this new company will be led by Syniverse CEO Andrew Davies, who has worked at Syniverse since 1994," said M3-Brigade CEO Andrew Davis in a news release. "If you’ve never heard of it, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve seen something running on your phone, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received a call there, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received an important message, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever applied for a T-Mobile credit card, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever heard of it, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever seen something running on your phone, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received a call there, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received an important message, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever applied for a T-Mobile credit card, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever heard of it, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever seen something running on your phone, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received a call there, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever received an important message, that’s Syniverse. If you’ve ever applied for a T-Mobile credit card, that’s Syniverse.

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