

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
4 URGING AIRLINES WITH FLIGHTS INTO FORT
5 LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
6 TO SUSPEND FLIGHTS FROM COUNTRIES WITH A HIGH
7 PREVALENCE OF NEW COVID-19 VARIANTS UNTIL
8 MEDICAL EXPERTS HAVE VERIFIED THE EFFICACY OF
9 CURRENT VACCINES AGAINST THOSE VARIANTS; AND
10 PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE
11 DATE.

12 (Sponsored by Commissioner Mark D. Bogen)

13 WHEREAS, the C.37 variant of SARS-CoV-2 of the Coronavirus Disease 2019
14 (“COVID-19”), known as the Lambda variant, was first identified in Peru in August 2020;

15 WHEREAS, the Lambda variant is now reportedly the dominant variant in Peru
16 (64% of sequenced cases) and becoming increasingly prevalent in several other
17 countries such as Chile (20% of sequenced cases) and Ecuador (11% of sequenced
18 cases);

19 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)
20 has labeled the Lambda variant a “variant of interest” and has indicated more studies are
21 needed to determine the efficacy of existing vaccines against the Lambda variant and
22 whether it is more transmissible than other variants;

23 WHEREAS, the B.1.621 variant of COVID-19, known as the Mu variant, was first
24 detected in Colombia in January, and has now been detected in more than 45 countries;

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2021, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared
the Mu variant a “variant of interest”;

1 WHEREAS, the WHO stated in a recent COVID-19 weekly update, “[t]he Mu
2 variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune
3 escape,” indicating that it may present elevated risk for individuals who are fully
4 vaccinated and for individuals who have already had the COVID-19 virus;

5 WHEREAS, the Mu variant is reportedly identified in 44% of sequenced cases in
6 Colombia, as compared to less than 0.5% globally; the countries with the next highest
7 prevalence of the Mu variant in sequenced cases are Mexico (2%), Peru (1%), and
8 Canada (1%);

9 WHEREAS, COVID-19 screening of international airline passengers is a
10 responsibility of federal authorities and the airlines themselves, thus limiting Broward
11 County’s ability to impose requirements relating to air travel—even measures necessary
12 to protect public health and safety of airline passengers and the public; and

13 WHEREAS, Broward County and the public visiting or residing in Broward County
14 must rely upon the airlines to ensure that new variants of the COVID-19 virus are not
15 deplaned along with the passengers arriving at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International
16 Airport, NOW, THEREFORE,

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18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
19 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

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21 Section 1. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners (“Board”)
22 urges airlines flying into the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (“FLL”) from
23 countries with a high prevalence of COVID-19 variants of concern or variants of interests,
24 including the Lambda and Mu variants, to suspend flights from those countries to FLL

1 until medical experts have confirmed the efficacy of current vaccines against those
2 variants.

3 Section 2. Pending the suspension of such flights, the Board expects and relies
4 upon the airlines to take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure passengers
5 destined for FLL from any international point of departure are prescreened for COVID-19
6 to protect the passengers, the airline's employees, and the Broward County public.

7 Section 3. Severability.

8 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid
9 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this
10 Resolution. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part, cannot be
11 legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such
12 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,
13 group, entity, property, or circumstance.

14 Section 4. Effective Date.

15 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

16 ADOPTED this day of , 2021.

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18 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
19 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

20 By /s/ René D. Harrod 09/14/2021
21 René D. Harrod (date)
22 Deputy County Attorney

23 RDH
24 Reso FLL COVID variant
09/14/2021