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THE DAYTONA BEACH
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Right now, about 800 CVS pharmacies in Florida are giving the vaccine to those with a prescription for a COVID-19 vaccine, a CVS spokesperson said. GREG LOVETT/PALM BEACH POST FILE

HARDER TO GET
COVID VAX IN FL?

Rules unclear in state as access in U.S. might become easier

Anne Geggis
Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

The COVID-19 vaccine is available at some Florida CVS pharmacies, but other major retailers — such as Publix, Walgreens and Walmart — don’t have it available to Floridians despite the latest ruling from the federal Centers for Disease Control, their websites show.

Right now, about 800 CVS pharmacies in Florida are giving the vaccine to those with a prescription for a COVID vaccine, a CVS spokesperson said. Go

to a CVS outlet with a MinuteClinic and you can get it without a prescription.

And it should become more widely available — without a prescription — once the CDC director signs off, as expected, on a Sept. 19 ruling from the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the spokesperson added.

Beyond CVS, though, the situation is far murkier for Floridians seeking to protect themselves against COVID.

See **VACCINE**, Page 7A

Was Mills
actually
‘blown up’
in Iraq?

Claims have drawn fire from political opponents

Mark Harper
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. Cory Mills, an Army combat veteran who served briefly in Iraq in 2003, has, on multiple occasions, claimed to have twice been “blown up” while in service of his country as a defense contractor three years later.

On the day he took office in 2023, he told C-SPAN he “was blown up by roadside bombs in 2006.” He repeated that line nearly verbatim to CNN in 2024. His congressional biography states, “while serving abroad, Cory was struck twice in 2006.”

At the time, Mills was working for DynCorp, which had a State Department security contract in Iraq. U.S. military forces were still fighting insurgents there three years after the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Three of Mills’ private-contractor colleagues, including one who actually was seriously injured by one of those roadside bombs, say the congressman’s story that he was “blown up” is fiction.

Attacks from Republican
Congresswoman Nancy Mace

In recent days, Mills has been taking incoming from one of his congressional colleagues, Rep. Nancy Mace, a South Carolina Republican. She has accused Mills of overstating his combat experience and called for his removal from House committees.

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The research on Tylenol, autism link is inconclusive

Adrianna Rodriguez
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said at a Sept. 22 news conference that acetaminophen use during pregnancy causes autism.

However, the science is not clear.

Acetaminophen, often sold under the brand name Tylenol, has long been considered the safest option for managing headaches, fever and other pain during

pregnancy. Large surveys have reported that between 40% and 65% of pregnant people use acetaminophen at some point during their pregnancy, according to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

In 2022, the U.S. autism rate in 8-year-olds was 1 in 31, or 3.2%, up from 0.66% in 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Decades of research have not yielded firm answers on what contributes to au-

tism, but many scientists believe genetics, potentially in combination with environmental influences, play a role. They also say the rising incidence could be attributed to increased access to diagnostic tools and improvements in early detection.

Some of this research has examined acetaminophen use during pregnancy. More than two dozen studies around

See **AUTISM**, Page 6A



Surveys have reported that between 40% and 65% of pregnant people use acetaminophen at some point during their pregnancy.

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