

COVID-19 Pandemic Updates - May 4, 2021

COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL: Low/Mod *	Prior Reporting Period (as of 4/27/21)	Current Reporting Period (as of 5/4/21)
Total Confirmed Cases	56,921	57,701
Deaths in FBC	598	612
Case Fatality Rate	1.05%	1.06%
Test % Positive Rate: NOTE: Due to insufficient testing numbers, FBC-HHS is unable to calculate a reliable test positivity rate that represents the level of community spread occurring FBC *Goal is to sustain a rate of <5% for at least 14 days		
SETRAC / FBC Hospital Data (Current as of 5/4/2021)		
FBC General Bed Usage	79	73
FBC ICU Bed Usage	19	16
% FBC ICU bed occupied by COVID+ Pts	17.3%	14.4%
TMC Data §		(week of 4/26/2021)
Effective Reproduction Rate R(t) <i>R(t) >1: indicates increasing viral transmission</i> <i>R(t) <1: indicates viral transmission is slowing down</i>	0.96	1.0
TMC % Positive Rate	4.7%	4.2%
% TMC ICU beds occupied by COVID+ Pts	13%	14%
TMC ICU Capacity (non-pandemic, Phase 1)	100%	99%
TMC ICU Capacity (combined, Phase 1&2)	79%	--%

***as of April 13, 2021**

§ TMC is seeing limited daily changes and will now be reporting on a weekly basis. They will change back, should the need arise.

Assessment/Comments

- COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline or remain flat.
- Case Fatality Rate remains flat.

Children Now Account For About 22% of New U.S. COVID Cases

- One year ago, child COVID-19 cases made up approximately 3% of the U.S. total.
- On 5/3/2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics, reported that children represented 22.4% of new cases reported in the past week.
- According to the CDC, the highest case rates has been 18 to 24 age group in the U.S.
- Several Factors:
 - Older Americans, over the 60 represent a very large proportion of the population that has already been vaccinated. So children (who are not yet vaccinated) will necessarily make up a greater percentage of cases. Side Note: Fully vaccinated adults 65 and older are 94% less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19!
 - New variants such as the B.1.1.7 variant appear to be more transmissible

- Relaxing restrictions on school activities - more outbreaks in school-related activities, particularly sports (especially indoor sports).
- Game Changer: The US FDA is expected to authorize the Pfizer SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for adolescents ages 12 to 15 late this week or early next week. Recent data from Pfizer showed the vaccine to be well-tolerated and 100% efficacious!

Areas of Concern

Daily Vaccinations Continue to Decline in the US

The impact is not distributed equally between first and second doses. At the national level, the total doses administered has decreased from a high of 3.26 million doses per day on April 11 to 2.30 million on April 28, a 29% decline over that period. In terms of full vaccination, the average fell 24% from the peak on April 12—1.77 million doses per day to 1.35 million. In contrast, the average for first doses decreased by half from its peak on April 11—from 1.93 million doses per day down to 965,421. The steep decline in first doses is being masked in the overall national data due to the continued progress by those obtaining their second dose. As we reach 3-4 weeks past the peak in first doses—when those individuals will receive their second doses—we can expect a sharper decline in the number of fully vaccinated individuals each day. (Source: Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security)

US VACCINE HESITANCY

A complex combination of challenges faces ongoing vaccination efforts, including barriers to accessing vaccination, vaccine hesitancy, and denialism. Notably, a recent survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation observed declining vaccine hesitancy from December 2020 through March 2021. Overall vaccine hesitancy and opposition—those who would “wait and see,” get vaccinated “only if required,” or “definitely not” get vaccinated—decreased from 64% to 37%. Notably, “wait and see” responses fell from 39% to 17% over that period, indicating increased confidence among those who were uncertain. These data were collected prior to the temporary suspension of the J&J-Janssen vaccine. With vaccine supply now exceeding demand, it is critical to identify and implement effective mechanisms to engage individuals and populations that have not yet been vaccinated. Some people in higher risk professions—including law enforcement, long-term care facility personnel, and healthcare workers in rural areas—as well as in certain rural communities, have lower vaccination coverage. It is also important to continue public education efforts regarding the benefits and timing of second doses to ensure vaccinated individuals develop full protection. (Source: Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security)

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