

COVID-19 Pandemic Updates - April 13 2021

COMMUNITY RISK LEVEL: Moderate	Prior Reporting Period (as of 4/6/21)	Current Reporting Period (as of 4/13/21)
Total Confirmed Cases	55,324	55,898
Deaths in FBC	587	590
Case Fatality Rate	1.06%	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 4/6/2021)		
FBC General Bed Usage	60	68
FBC ICU Bed Usage	17	18
% FBC ICU bed occupied by COVID+ Pts	15.3%	15.9%
TMC Data (Current as of 4/6/2021)		
Effective Reproduction Rate $R(t)^{**}$ <i>**$R(t) > 1$: indicates increasing viral transmission $R(t) < 1$: indicates viral transmission is slowing down</i>	0.9	0.85
TMC % Positive Rate	4.8%	4.6%
% TMC ICU beds occupied by COVID+ Pts	16%	13%
TMC ICU Capacity (non-pandemic, Phase 1)	99%	100%
TMC ICU Capacity (combined, Phase 1&2)	---	80%

Assessment/Comments

1. COVID-19 cases continue to decline and hospitalizations appear to be declining, both statewide and locally.
2. Case Fatality Rate remains flat.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update:

In Fort Bend County (as of 4/8/2):

- 177,684 Fort Bend County residents aged 16 and older (approx. 29% of the eligible population) have been fully vaccinated. This number has increased by more than 56,000, or 10%, in two weeks. Of these, 67% were over the age of 65.
- About 44% of eligible Fort Bend County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of these 81% over the age of 65 have received one dose.

In Texas:

- 22% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated.

In the US:

- 28.1% of the adult U.S. population is now fully vaccinated, including 61.4% of those 65 and older.

Very concerning:

- About 40% of U.S. Marines have declined COVID-19 vaccination (I wasn't aware they actually had a choice in the matter)

The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Pause

April 13, 2021:

- FDA and the CDC halted administration of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine at federal sites and launched investigation of 6 US cases of cerebral venous thrombosis among women aged 18-49 given the one-shot vaccine
- All 6 developed this clotting disorder within one to three weeks of vaccination. One death reported so far
- This adverse reaction appears to be very rare (about 7 million people have received the J&J vaccine)

Unofficial U.S. COVID-19 Toll

(as of 4/12/2021):

- 31,198,232 cases and 562,066 deaths
 - an increase of almost 492,000 cases (10% increase from last week) and
 - about 7,100 deaths (25% increase from last week)
- According to the CDC, the rise in new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are driven by infections in younger, unvaccinated adults.

Nearly 80% of Teachers, School Staff, and Childcare Workers Receive at Least One Shot of COVID-19 Vaccine

- According to the CDC approximately 80% of Pre-K-12 teachers, school staff, and childcare workers received at least the first shot of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of March.

Pfizer has applied to the FSA to expand their EUA to include teens ages 12-15

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine demonstrated 100% efficacy against symptomatic disease in adolescents as young as age 12!

Symptoms and Functional Impairment Assessed 8 Months After Mild COVID-19 Among Health Care Workers (JAMA published online April 7, 2021)

- This article showed that a significant portion of low-risk Healthcare personnel with mild COVID-19 reported several long-term symptoms, and that these symptoms disrupted work, social, and home life.
- This study seems to support the mounting evidence of prolonged symptom duration in people recovering from COVID-19.

CDC: 1 in 3 children hospitalized with COVID-19 requires treatment in ICU (published in JAMA Network Open - https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2021/04/09/coronavirus-children-hospital-study/5411617975109/)

- CDC researchers studied about 21,000 pediatric COVID-19 patients, 12% of whom required hospitalization
 - 31% of those needed intensive care unit treatment and
 - 7% required mechanical ventilation.
- Children ages 2 to 11 were 53% more likely to develop severe COVID-19, compared with those ages 12 to 18, and
- Youths who had a pre-existing chronic health condition were over three times more likely to develop severe disease, compared with youths who were healthy.

