

COVID-19 Update: Fort Bend County

On June 23, 2021 Fort Bend County confirmed 5 cases of the Delta variant (and I expect this to increase)

- No hospitalizations were reported
- Three had received only one dose of vaccine, although it is not clear which vaccine was administered (this truly underscores the importance of completing the vaccine regimen!)
- Fully vaccinated person over the age of 12: 61.2% (as of June 24, 2021)
- Fully vaccinated persons over the age of 65: 86% (as of June 24, 2021)

Nearly All COVID Deaths in the Unvaccinated!

- Nearly all new COVID-related deaths in the U.S. are in people who have NOT been vaccinated – only 0.8% of deaths in May were among fully vaccinated individuals.
- **Covid-19 has now become a vaccine preventable disease.** For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began in earnest in March of 2020 in the United States, nearly all of the deaths recorded in recent weeks were preventable, occurring in unvaccinated Americans. According to CDC data from May 2021, only about 150 of the more than 18,000 COVID-19 deaths in May were in fully vaccinated people (0.83%), or 5 deaths per day attributed to fully vaccinated Americans experiencing breakthrough infections, and roughly 300 deaths per day in the unvaccinated.
- **Vaccination is how this pandemic ends**
 - In the US, the Delta variant is up to 20%, highly transmissible and appears to be spreading very rapidly. The good news is that our current vaccines are still successful in providing immunity against all known circulating variants.
 - In a recent study, the Pfizer vaccine was 88% effective at preventing against symptomatic disease caused by the Delta variant.
 - Unfortunately, a single dose of the vaccine was just 33% effective against.
 - COVID-19 cases are beginning to rise again in the United States, and this increase is seen mostly in Southern and Western states, and communities with low vaccination rates
 - Many individuals who received the first dose of the 2 dose vaccines are choosing to skip the second dose.

Effect of Vaccination on Household Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in England N Engl J Med published online June 23, 2021

Findings suggest that breakthrough infections after COVID vaccination tend not only to be less severe, but also less transmissible than infections in the unvaccinated. In addition, vaccinated individuals were less likely to be infected.

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Intent Among Adults Aged 18–39 Years — United States, March–May 2021 MMWR June 21, 2021 (Commentary by E. Septimus, MD)

- Findings in this report indicate that trust in COVID-19 vaccines, particularly in their safety and effectiveness, was an important factor in the decision to get vaccinated among adults aged 18–39 years
- Compared with those who were probably or not planning to get vaccinated, this group was more concerned about getting COVID-19, indicating that information about vaccine safety and effectiveness might have influenced their decision to get vaccinated.
 - This information might be a motivating factor if it were to come from trusted sources, such as health authorities, primary physicians, and family and friends.
 - In contrast, vaccine messages from employers, religious leaders, or social media might not be as effective.
- Adults aged 18–39 years who were unsure about getting vaccinated or probably going to get vaccinated reported that a desire to protect others and resume social activities were motivators to get vaccinated, suggesting that messages emphasizing that vaccination would allow them to resume social activities and encouraging vaccination for the greater good might be effective.
- Achieving high vaccination coverage among adults aged 18–39 years is critical to protect this population from COVID-19 and to reduce community transmission especially with new variant such as Delta.

Myocarditis/Pericarditis Likely Associated with mRNA Pfizer, Moderna Covid vaccines - UPDATE

- On June 25, 2021, the USFDA added a warning to patient and provider fact sheets for the Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines to indicate a rare risk of heart inflammation.
- For each vaccine, the fact sheets were revised to include a warning about myocarditis and pericarditis after the second dose and with the onset of symptoms within a few days after receiving the shot.
- Health officials said the benefits of receiving the vaccine still outweigh any risk. There have been just 12.6 heart inflammation cases per million doses for both vaccines combined.
- The ACIP and CDC recently indicated that there is a “likely association” between the mRNA-based vaccines and an “elevated risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- Although more common adolescents and younger adults, the risk appears to be very low.
- The rates of myocarditis/pericarditis are higher in males than females, and the conditions are more common after the second dose of the vaccine.
- The overall rate of myocarditis/pericarditis is estimated to be 12.6 cases per million second doses of the vaccines in individuals aged 12-39 years old.
- The conditions tend to present within approximately 5 days, and while most of the affected individuals were hospitalized, symptoms were generally mild and most recovered quickly.
- So far, it appears that neither condition has resulted in death among recently vaccinated individuals.

- Available data indicate that the benefits of vaccination still far outweigh the risks of myocarditis/pericarditis, even for males aged 12-17 years—the group with the lowest COVID-19 risk and highest myocarditis/pericarditis
- HHS, CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics—issued a statement emphasizing the rarity of myocarditis/pericarditis following vaccination and encouraging all eligible individuals to get vaccinated.