



JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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JEFFERSON COUNTY COVID-19 CASES HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE JUNE

July 7, 2021 Jefferson County, AL - After months of decline, cases of COVID-19 in Jefferson County have started to increase again. This increase is likely due to a combination of more contagious variants, including the highly infectious Delta variant, and the low rate of vaccine uptake in Jefferson County (35.3% of Jefferson County residents have completed vaccination as of 07/06/2021). The Delta variant passes from one person to another much easier than the original strain of the virus, and because of this, those who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at a higher risk of becoming ill. While the numbers of new cases remain much lower than during the winter surge, the rate of new cases has more than doubled in a short period of time (from 90 cases of COVID-19 detected the week of 06/13/2021 to 190 cases of COVID-19 detected the week of 06/27/2021). If left unchecked, these numbers may continue to increase. We want to communicate the importance of being vaccinated to protect the residents of Jefferson County from another surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available in Jefferson County, with three options: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. These vaccines are effective at preventing illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19, including the Delta variant, when all doses of the vaccine are completed. For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, it is very important to get both doses, because protection against the Delta variant is quite low when only a single dose is given. Approximately 330 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given in the United States so far, and the vaccines have proven to be highly effective and safe. Since the first reports of COVID-19 in the United States, 605,582 people have died from the disease. While the deaths due to COVID-19 have slowed considerably as more people have become vaccinated across the United States, those who are unvaccinated remain at risk for complications, including long-term symptoms, hospitalization, permanent disability, and death.

As more and more people become vaccinated against COVID-19, we are able to protect ourselves, our families, and our entire community from the complications and long term effects of COVID-19. The vaccines protect our wellbeing and allow our community to function through the continuation of businesses, schools, and social activities.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can be given to children 12 years of age and older. As participation in summer activities increases and as the next school year approaches, fully vaccinated children and adults will not be impacted by disruptions due to exposure to someone with COVID-19. As more people become fully vaccinated, we will insulate our community from further surges in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Given the increase in cases due to variant strains, the Jefferson County Department of Health strongly endorses vaccinations for individuals ages 12 and older. Vaccinations are the best way to protect all members of our community and help to avoid another disruptive surge.

The Jefferson County Department of Health has scheduled media availability today to address this topic from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Contact: Wanda Heard (205) 930-1483 or wanda.heard@jcdh.org.

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About JCDH

The Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) was established in 1917. JCDH serves as the primary resource for public health issues in Jefferson

County. JCDH has three health centers strategically located throughout the county. JCDH is responsible for providing health care, preventing the spread of diseases, and protecting against outbreaks. JCDH provides outpatient health care for Jefferson County's underinsured and uninsured residents. JCDH health centers provide child health, dental health, family planning, immunizations, maternity care, nutrition (WIC), case management, and Medicaid enrollment. JCDH Disease Control Specialty Clinics include: Tuberculosis, Sexual Health, and International Travel Clinics. Vital Records can be obtained for birth, death or marriage events that occurred in the state of Alabama. Environmental Health Services is responsible for Air and Radiation, Food and Lodging, Community Assessment and Community Environmental Protection. For additional information please visit www.jcdh.org