

MADISON COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Position Statement
Madison County Board of Health
August 2, 2021

The Madison County Board of Health is extremely concerned about the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in our area. Unfortunately, the pandemic has not ended. This increase is the direct result of a low rate of vaccination and the emergence of variants that are more easily transmissible

COVID-19 impacts our entire community - fellow citizens, our health care system, and our economy. We must work together to stop the spread of this virus. Vaccines are the most effective way to limit its spread. Vaccines are safe and effective. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the Infectious Disease Society of America all strongly endorse vaccination. We urge you to take the vaccine if you haven't already and to encourage your family and friends to do so as well. (All children ages 12 and up can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine.)

Meanwhile, we know that COVID is dangerous and potentially deadly. People infected with the delta variant carry 1000x's the viral load than those with the original variant. This variant is at least twice as contagious as the original SARS COV2 virus. Vaccinated people can have breakthrough disease, which they can spread, but have significantly reduced chances of having poor outcomes. Currently, over 90% of Madison County's COVID-19 patients ill enough to require hospitalization are unvaccinated. We are also seeing more disease in younger patients, including children. In addition, we continue to learn more worrisome information about the long-term consequences of COVID-19.

The key to ending this pandemic is the COVID-19 vaccine. But, until more of the public embrace vaccination, we ask you to be vigilant and protect yourself and those around you.

Therefore, the Madison County Board of Health physicians **strongly recommends** that all Madison County citizens adopt the CDC's most recent guidelines for your business, families, friends, our community, and its healthcare workers.

For vaccinated individuals:

- Wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission (currently, this includes Madison County).
- Wear a mask if you or a household member are immunocompromised.
- Indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and school visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure regardless of local transmission rate.

For those who choose to be unvaccinated despite evidence of safety and effectiveness:

- Mask when near others for the protection of everyone.
- **Please, reconsider being vaccinated!**

For more information, visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

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