



Madison County COVID update 7.30.21

Good afternoon Partners,

COVID-19 cases have increased globally in the last month and Madison County is following this same trend. In the past 14 days we have seen a 150% increase in cases. Below are the current trends.

Mitigation Measures

As cases increase, individuals should continue to watch for COVID-19 symptoms, especially if unvaccinated. **It is critical that you ensure protective measures are implemented in your business or facility to ensure you have the manpower to continue operations.** In areas of high transmission, CDC recommends that everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor setting to help prevent the spread of the virus and protect others. Madison County is designated as an area of high transmission by the CDC.

If you are vaccinated and develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should keep your distance and be evaluated by your health care provider and get tested.

The best way to prevent illness is to practice tried and true public health mitigation measures, including:

- Getting vaccinated against other preventable diseases.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Washing your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds.
- Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol in the ingredients.
- Covering your cough or sneeze by using a tissue or your sleeve or elbow.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Florida Department of Health guidance remains – the vaccine is the most effective way to protect yourself from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be vital to ending the pandemic, including combating the recent case increases nationally and globally. Vaccine benefits include:

- Significantly reduces the risk of contracting the virus even if you are exposed.
- Teaching your body how to fight the virus.
- Reducing the risk of severe symptoms, hospitalization, and death if you contract the virus.
- Minimizing the ability for the virus to spread, especially to our most vulnerable populations.
- Fighting against emerging variants that can cause worse symptoms and spread.



Testing

Testing resources are limited within our county. Individuals should contact their health care provider to be tested. The health department is currently prioritizing testing as listed below. These services will be provided as resources allow.

- First responders (e.g., emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, law enforcement, firefighters)
- Individuals associated with an outbreak
- Individuals 65 years and older
- Critical infrastructure workers who work closely with other critical infrastructure workers
- Individuals known to live in households with a higher-risk individual or provides care in a household with a higher-risk individual
- Uninsured or underinsured individuals of any age with certain underlying medical conditions who are at increased risk for severe illness
- Members of a large household living in close quarters
- Pregnant women

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to me or my team.

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