Message from the

Fairfax County Health Department
fairfaxcounty.gov/health/ Tel: 571- 354-7030
(फेयरफ्याक्स काउन्टीमा नेपाली समुदायलाई)

Briefing update:

The current level of COVID-19 transmission in Fairfax County is now categorized as **high**. We have moved from substantial level of transmission to high transmission.

As a result of this shift, and since the number of COVID-19 cases has continued to increase with the spread of the Delta variant, for now, **everyone is recommended to wear a mask in public indoor settings, including those fully vaccinated against COVID-19.**

Some statistics

- According to new research from the CDC, compared to those fully vaccinated, unvaccinated people:
    - Are 11 times more likely to die from COVID-19
    - Nearly 5 times more likely to get infected
    - Ten times more likely to become hospitalized
- The rate of children and teens hospitalized due to COVID-19 increased nearly 5 times mid-August compared to the end of July
- Hospitalizations for children under the age of 4 increased 10 times during this period
- Unvaccinated teenagers are nearly 10 times more likely to be hospitalized compared to teens who are unvaccinated

This evidence points to how great of protection the vaccine provides against the virus, even the delta variant.

Consider getting the vaccine:

- https://www.vaccines.gov/
- 703-324-7404

Booster shots?

Experts are still discussing whether or not to recommend booster shots for the general public.

Please stay tuned.

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"Hybrid Immunity"

People who have gotten infected from COVID-19, recovered, and developed natural immunity (protection) against the virus, then later got the vaccine (this is called hybrid immunity) have been found to have the best immunity compared to those who have only recovered from infection and did not get the vaccine or those who never got infected and got vaccinated.

This is a reason why those who recover from COVID-19, even if they developed natural immunity, are still advised to get the vaccine: because they will have the best protection possible.

Additionally, while natural immunity is great, the vaccines have been found to better adapt to protecting against the variants.

It is *not* recommended to try to develop natural immunity from getting infected. This is dangerous because not only would the individual be at risk of dying from the infection, but they are also at risk of spreading it to others. Additionally, they may have lingering symptoms for weeks or months after diagnosis (called long-haul COVID).

Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and the COVID Vaccine

Pregnant women are at higher risk of severe disease and death due to COVID-19. COVID-19 increases the risk of pregnancy complications and preterm birth. CDC recommends all pregnant people, those trying to become pregnant, and people who are breastfeeding to get vaccinated.

Antibodies developed from the mother due to getting vaccinated can be transferred to the baby while it is in the uterus as well as through breast milk. This can help provide some protection to the baby.

Currently no evidence shows that the vaccine causes fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant) in women or men.

An analysis of data did not find an increase in risk of miscarriage among nearly 2,500 pregnant women who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy. Additionally, data from three safety monitoring systems did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated late in pregnancy or for their babies.

FCPS Information

Update on COVID-19 Investigations and Guidance for Parents of School-Aged Children

- https://fairfaxcountyemergency.wpcomstaging.com/2021/09/02/update-on-covid-19-investigations-and-guidance-for-parents-of-school-aged-children/

Schools frequently asked questions

- https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/schools

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Thank you! Please be safe!

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