

Dr. Delgado COVID-19 Update 01-25-21

LOCAL UPDATE

Unfortunately, our expected post holiday surge is now in full swing. Whether this is being further accelerated by the new variants that make the virus more transmissible – I believe this to be the case – it certainly is cause for concern.

On December 27th, our 5.58 cases per 100K of population was at the lowest rate in Blaine County since September 17th. We are now at 85.02 cases per 100K locally as of yesterday. This includes a case increase locally of 36.6% just in the last week.

It's time to reconsider, yet again, our priorities. Any non essential interaction and hence exposures with others should be curtailed irrespective of whether you adhere to the guidelines known to reduce transmission. A virus cannot spread if you are not exposed to it. Please reevaluate your daily decisions and the risk they may pose to you and your loved ones.

VACCINE UPDATE

It appears some increased vaccine availability is on the horizon locally. It has been a sporadic trickle to this point and elusive. This is certainly a welcome development, but we remain at the mercy of the state and public health and no specifics available.

No new changes to the recommendations for distribution made by the state have occurred this past week. Vaccine delivery continues to focus on group 2 or frontline essential worker since January 12th. Any vaccine surplus is currently being prioritized for those 75 or older. Whether the state will further open access to those 65 or older or go even further as we approach February is anyone's guess.

I will continue to update you if any tangible or verifiable information arises. I urge you to remain patient and take my recommendations above to heart.

OFFICE UPDATE

I remain asymptomatic, in quarantine and have twice tested negative twice since my exposure. I currently plan to return to the office this Tuesday afternoon if a final test returns negative later today.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you are contacted in the near future for a vaccine appointment, I urge you to please follow protocols. If your spouse or partner is not in the current cohort being vaccinated, it is unlikely that any objections will be productive. I am not the final arbiter for any other distributors of the vaccine or their interpretation of the current guidelines of vaccination.

I personally remain committed to following the CDC

recommendations for distribution if I am able to procure any supply. It's the equitable and ethical way to proceed.

Stay safe,

R. Delgado, MD