



PRESS RELEASE

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Updated Guidance on Covid-19 Vaccines and Case Numbers

Covid-19 case numbers are continuing to drop throughout our district. Webster County reported one new case since last week, with Clay County and Randolph County reporting only four cases each. Three counties reported deaths this week, with a total of 12, as was the total last week.

COVID-19 Cases

County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.		County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.	
		Cases	Deaths			Cases	Deaths
Chattahoochee	5,895	57	16	Quitman	228	7	3
Clay	354	11	4	Randolph	841	33	42
Crisp	2,533	45	68	Schley	517	17	8
Dooly	1,516	34	39	Stewart	1,722	104	31
Harris	5,076	140	90	Sumter	3,867	70	141
Macon	1,184	20	41	Talbot	932	25	30
Marion	948	18	37	Taylor	1,128	29	38
Muscogee	31,580	885	629	Webster	251	2	7

The cumulative number of reported cases in the West Central Health District is 58,572. The number of cases in the last two weeks is 1,497. The death toll from the virus currently stands at 1,224.

Drive-thru Testing is now being held in Columbus at the Peachtree Mall Parking Lot between JCPenney and the AMC Theatres. Testing will be Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Pre-registration is not required at this location. Testing is also available at the Shirley B. Winston Recreation Center, 5025 Steam Mill Road, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Pre-registration for testing is strongly encouraged at the Recreation Center; please visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com to register, and for days and times at other health departments.

Current CDC Prevention Guidance

The CDC recommends that all persons, fully vaccinated or not, wear a mask in any public indoor location. Physical distancing is also recommended, as well as these guidelines:

- **Wash your hands** often for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

District Vaccination Numbers

County	Fully Vaccinated	Percentage	County	Fully Vaccinated	Percentage
Chattahoochee	2,239	21	Quitman	818	36
Clay	2,093	71	Randolph	3,315	48
Crisp	9,987	44	Schley	1,875	36
Dooly	5,146	37	Stewart	2,148	34
Harris	15,246	45	Sumter	15,704	52
Macon	5,801	44	Talbot	3,082	49
Marion	3,550	42	Taylor	3,733	46
Muscogee	82,431	42	Webster	1,198	46

The number of residents fully vaccinated in our district is 158,366.

The CDC has also recommended that the wait time be eliminated for any who received monoclonal antibody treatment may proceed with vaccination at their earliest opportunity.

Booster Doses

All three COVID vaccines – Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen – have been given EUA for *booster* doses for those 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine has been given EUA for *booster* doses for those 12 and older. For those who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, the booster shot should be at least five months after their initial series. All those who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who received their initial dose two or more months ago.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose, except for those under 18; Pfizer is the only brand that has been given EUA for boosters for this age group. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received and others, may prefer to get a different brand. The CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Additional Doses for those Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

The chart below shows dosing schedule for patients in these age groups. These persons may bring documentation from their healthcare provider, or self-attest on the immunization consent form as to their health status.

Primary Vaccine	Age	Number of Primary & Additional	Number of Boosters	Time between 1 st & 2 nd dose	Time between 2 nd & 3 rd dose	Time between 3 rd & 4 th dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5–11 years	3	N/A	21 days	≥28 days	N/A
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	3	1	21 days	≥28 days	≥3 months
Moderna	≥18 years	3	1	28 days	≥ 28 days	>3 months
Janssen/J&J	≥18 years	1 Janssen, followed by 1 mRNA	1	≥ 28 days	≥2 months	N/A

Vaccine Locations

The Columbus Health Department is giving all brands of vaccines inside the clinic Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for those five years of age and older, at 5601 Veterans Parkway. Appointments are preferred, but not required. Please visit www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com to make an appointment and for schedules at other district health departments. To find other locations, visit www.vaccines.gov.

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