



PRESS RELEASE

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Updated Guidance on Covid-19 Vaccines and Case Numbers

Covid-19 case numbers continue to drop throughout our district. Clay County reported no new cases since last week, with several other counties reporting less than 10 new cases each. Five counties reported deaths this week, with a total of 30.

COVID-19 Cases

County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.		County	Cases	Cases in the last 2 wks.	
		Cases	Deaths			Cases	Deaths
Chattahoochee	5,902	25	16	Quitman	228	5	3
Clay	354	5	4	Randolph	849	21	42
Crisp	2,538	13	70	Schley	519	7	8
Dooly	1,521	17	39	Stewart	1,759	96	31
Harris	5,102	74	94	Sumter	3,880	37	143
Macon	1,188	11	41	Talbot	938	17	30
Marion	952	9	39	Taylor	1,138	17	38
Muscogee	31,699	389	649	Webster	252	3	7

The cumulative number of reported cases in the West Central Health District is 58,819. The number of cases in the last two weeks is 746. The death toll from the virus currently stands at 1,254.

Drive-thru Testing is held in Columbus at the Peachtree Mall Parking Lot between JCPenney and the AMC Theatres. Testing this week is Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Beginning Monday, February 28th, testing will return to the Columbus Health Department lower parking lot, at 5601 Veterans Parkway. Hours will be Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 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	2,251	21	Quitman	818	36
Clay	2,101	71	Randolph	3,333	48
Crisp	10,027	44	Schley	1,884	36
Dooly	5,165	38	Stewart	2,169	34
Harris	15,304	45	Sumter	15,731	52
Macon	5,811	44	Talbot	3,076	49
Marion	3,558	42	Taylor	3,747	46
Muscogee	82,672	42	Webster	1,195	46

The number of residents fully vaccinated in our district is 158,842.

The CDC has also recommended that the wait time be eliminated for any who received monoclonal antibody treatment. They 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.

<u>Primary Vaccine</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Primary & Additional</u>	<u>Number of Boosters</u>	<u>Time between 1st & 2nd dose</u>	<u>Time between 2nd & 3rd dose</u>	<u>Time between 3rd & 4th dose</u>
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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