



Charlotte
DeSoto
Manatee
Sarasota

Through the COVID-19 Response initiative at The Patterson Foundation, this weekly Amplify communication aims to weave together what works in each of the counties for a healthier and more thriving Suncoast. You're receiving this message because you've been identified as a community advocate, and we hope you'll share these stories and messages far and wide in your network.

Recovering from COVID-19: Hear from a Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Recipient

Recently, we interviewed a local resident (who prefers to remain anonymous) about her experience testing positive for COVID-19 and her decision to receive monoclonal treatment. After testing positive, she felt anxious and scared at first. While recovering, she began taking vitamins, resting, and staying as stress-free as possible. A day after her positive test result, she received monoclonal antibody therapy.

She considered the treatment because she had a teacher friend and some of her co-workers who had the monoclonal therapy with positive results. Her friend felt that the therapy helped her recover more quickly. After learning that it is better to have the therapy as early as possible after a positive test result, she registered online for the treatment, answered a few questions, and selected an appointment. She went to Manatee Memorial Hospital the next day, completed a form, and waited to be called. She received a total of four shots, an injection in each arm and one on each side of her stomach. Then, she waited in a room with three other women for an hour, anxiously waiting for symptoms to develop. A nurse checked in multiple times and then released the four of them with instructions to rest, drink fluids, take vitamins, and see a doctor for any worsening symptoms.

She felt the treatment had an impact on her actual COVID-19 experience. She was fortunate that her symptoms, such as fatigue, were similar to a really bad cold. From an emotional aspect, the supplements she took and the treatment she received contributed to a more positive attitude, assisting in a quicker recovery. She did not see a physician until her two-week quarantine ended, and she had a negative COVID test!

You can learn more about monoclonal antibody therapy [here](#). To find a monoclonal antibody treatment location, click [here](#).

Why Does Data Matter?

As COVID-19 continues to be a part of our lives, we need to assess the data presented to us and understand its significance. This is especially true since the surge we saw in 2021 was statistically more significant than the surge in 2020. According to Sarasota Memorial Health data, 2021's highest daily COVID census (325) was more than double that of last year's (130). The continued increase in numbers is significant as we continue to see an overwhelming percentage of hospitalized COVID-19 patients being unvaccinated. Of the COVID patients treated at SMH from July 18th to September 30th, between 81-85% had not received a vaccine. One may see these numbers as a reflection of how well (or poorly) a vaccine is doing its job. However, Sarasota Memorial's infectious disease specialist, Dr. Manuel Gordillo says we need to consider the number given the larger context. "If you look at the percentage of people who are vaccinated at 53 years old, there are about 75% of them. So the group of unvaccinated are only coming from that other 25%," Gordillo said. "The [vaccine] efficacy is much larger than 80%. The efficacy rate is 97% because you have to do that calculation." While breakthrough cases happen, Gordillo says the failure of the vaccine is a much smaller problem than failure to vaccinate.

To read more on Dr. Gordillo's breakdown of SMH's COVID-19 data, click [here](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

You cannot get COVID from a vaccine since the authorized and recommended vaccines in the U.S. do not contain live viruses. The vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. Experiencing short-term symptoms after vaccination is normal and shows that your body is building protection against the virus. Learn more [here](#).

Stories from the Suncoast: Protecting Ourselves and Others Through Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool in our fight against COVID-19. Various organizations, health care institutions, foundations, and others are doing their part to encourage COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Here are a few examples:

- Since November 2020, [Sarasota Memorial Hospital \(SMH\)](#) has provided monoclonal antibody infusion therapy to about 1,200 patients. Additionally, SMH started an employee vaccination campaign to educate, encourage, and offer incentives to staff members. To date, 82% of SMH's 7,600+ employees and 90% of its 1,000+ Medical Staff have gotten the shot.
- Additional funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services allows community health organizations to expand access and healthcare opportunities for [COVID-19 testing and vaccination](#).
- [Centerplace Health](#) received a grant from the [COVID-19 Response Initiative](#) of Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and Gulf Coast Community Foundation, which helps expand [COVID-19 vaccine outreach through its "Shots in Arms" campaign](#). Bringing mobile vaccination units into the community helps underserved residents get vaccinated!

We encourage everyone to keep taking preventive measures to stay safe and healthy during COVID-19!

Getting back to normal is going to take all of our tools. Download this graphic [HERE](#)

Get vaccinated.



Wear a mask.



Stay 6 feet from others, and avoid crowds.



Wash hands often.

Suncoast COVID-19 Stats Week of October 18, 2021

COUNTY	7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases	A Population ^12 with at Least One Vaccination Dose
Charlotte	26 ↓ last wk: 41	73% —
DeSoto	4 ↓ last wk: 6	57% —
Manatee	46 ↓ last wk: 69	68% —
Sarasota	43 ↓ last wk: 51	76% —

The measures we are continually taking are working! Each of us must continue to do our part to get back to normal. Encourage your family, friends, stakeholders, clients, and others to continue to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best protection against COVID-19. Let's keep our community's numbers heading in the right direction!

CONTACT US

Please forward this to your network, and when you have stories about overcoming and thriving during COVID-19, please send them to Cheri Coryea at:

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#COVID19
@ThePattersonFdn

