



# SUNCOAST

AMPLIFYING WHAT WORKS  
COVID-19 RESPONSE

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.

## Safely Celebrating the Holidays - CDC

There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect your health. Because many generations tend to gather to celebrate holidays, the best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to get vaccinated if you're eligible. Here are safer ways to celebrate the holidays:

- Protect those not yet eligible for vaccination, such as young children, by getting yourself and other eligible people around them vaccinated.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated.
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- If you are traveling in a group or family with unvaccinated people, choose safer [travel options](#).
- If you consider traveling, visit CDC's Travel page to help you decide what is best for you and your family. CDC still recommends delaying travel until you are [fully vaccinated](#).

By working together, we can enjoy safer holidays, travel, and protect our health as well as the health of our family and friends. Learn more [here](#).

## Traveling during COVID-19 - CDC

Keep the following reminders in mind as you travel domestically and/or internationally.

- **DO NOT** travel if you are sick, you have been exposed to COVID-19 (unless you are fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days), or if you are waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.
- If you [travel in the United States](#), you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Pay close attention to [the situation at your international destination](#) before traveling outside the United States.
  - \* You do NOT need to get tested before leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.
  - \* You need to [show a negative test result](#) or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding an international flight to the United States.
  - \* You should still get tested 3-5 days after international travel.
  - \* You do NOT need to self-quarantine after arriving in the United States.
- [Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required](#) on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Learn more [here](#).

## What You Need to Know About Variants - CDC

The Omicron variant has been detected in the United States. Breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are expected, but vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. Early evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the Omicron variant can spread the virus to others. All FDA-approved or authorized vaccines are expected to be effective against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

Learn more [here](#).

## A Community Comes together to Vax Up, Manatee!

At the start of COVID-19, the Department of Health, the school district, and the County Government in Manatee County began having conversations on tackling the pandemic. Daily briefings to the public became the norm. Receiving information from every direction, locally and nationally, made people confused and skeptical.

As the school district, county, and health department worked to keep students and their 411,000 residents safe and informed, an idea was born to bring students, adults, older adults and leaders in the community together to create a coalition. This coalition would support and promote self-protective social distancing measures and increase personal hygiene and wearing masks. Using the logo of the Manatee wearing a mask, the coalition began spreading the word about resources to combat COVID-19. This effort became known as Mask Up Manatee and included hospitals, health care organizations, colleges, nonprofit agencies, and private business organizations.

When vaccines started to trickle in, the focus shifted from sharing information on preventative measures to vaccine locations and vaccine eligibility. The coalition grew to over 100 partners, and Mask Up Manatee evolved to a new relevant theme called [Vax Up, Manatee](#) with a revamped logo showing a band-aid on the fin of the Manatee signifying it was vaccinated. There have been many efforts to collaborate on messaging over the years, including the important and impactful Vax Up, Manatee, which united individuals, agencies, and organizations to move the community towards a healthier



You can learn more about [#VaxUp Manatee here](#). You can also download [#VaxUpManatee social media graphics, logos, and print materials from our Vax Up Manatee toolkit here](#).

Graphic: You can find this graphic [here](#).



## Suncoast COVID-19 Stats Week of December 20, 2021

COUNTY	7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases	*A Population 5+ with at Least One Vaccination Dose
Charlotte	11 🟢	72% 🟡
DeSoto	1 🟡	56% 🟢
Manatee	33 🔴	67% 🟢
Sarasota	41 🔴	75% 🟢

\*Please note, the percentage vaccinated column now reflects the percentage of 5+ individuals vaccinated.

- 🟢 Denotes a positive trend
- 🟡 Denotes a trend that remained the same
- 🔴 Denotes a trend heading in the wrong direction

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:

[CCoryea@thepattersonfoundation.org](mailto:CCoryea@thepattersonfoundation.org)



#COVID19  
@ThePattersonFdn

