Let’s educate, encourage others to boost vaccination rate – by Teri A. Hansen

Like so many all over Southwest Florida, the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation staff spent months working from home as the COVID-19 pandemic settled worldwide.

Unfortunately, without broader vaccination rates, this scenario threatens to become our new norm until a basic resistance to the disease is developed through a vaccination level somewhere in the 75-80% range.

The pandemic continues – and will continue – ravaging the unvaccinated population with the deadly Delta variant. It is many times more contagious than the original strain, and it is worrisome to medical professionals – not only for the rate at which it kills even the young, but also because of the unknown long-term health effects it will inflict on a generation.

Read more here.

Suncoast COVID-19 Stats
Week of August 16, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases</th>
<th>A Population &gt;12 with at Least One Vaccination Dose (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeSoto</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon. Recently, cases in Southwest Florida and the four county region have spiked as a result of the delta variant. Encourage your family, friends, stakeholders, clients, and others to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best protection against the variants, including delta.

Get Vaccinated: Vaccines are the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent the spread of disease. Learn more here.

Get Tested: If you are showing symptoms, you should get tested, experts say. You should also get tested if you live with a family member who was infected, or you came into close contact with someone who was. Learn more here.

Wear a Mask: You should wear a mask, even if you do not feel sick. This is because several studies have found that people with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms (asymptomatic) and those who are not yet showing symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can still spread the virus to other people. Wearing a mask helps protect those around you, in case you are infected but not showing symptoms. Learn more here.

Social Distance: The practice of social distancing means staying home and away from others as much as possible to help prevent spread of COVID-19. Learn more here.

Get Tested Regularly: With COVID-19 transmission mainly spreading between people through direct, indirect (through contaminated objects or surfaces), or close contact with infected people via mouth and nose secretions, washing hands with soap and running water is of critical importance. Learn more here.

Getting ‘Back to Normal’ Is Going to Take All of Our Tools. Download this graphic HERE.

Contact Us
Please forward this to your network, and when you have stories about overcoming and thriving during COVID-19, please send them to Hannah Saeger Karmel at HSaegerKarmel@thepattersonfoundation.org