



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.

### Vulnerable Populations Include the Unvaccinated

As COVID-19 continues to rear its ugly head in our communities, we find ourselves in a familiar position of attempting to protect the vulnerable in our communities. Who's most vulnerable right now?

#### Unvaccinated People

Florida currently estimates that 88%-95% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients are individuals who have not yet received their vaccine. At [Sarasota Memorial Health System](#), 86% of COVID-19 patients are unvaccinated.

#### School-Aged Youth

As we find ourselves in the school season again, Florida reported 20,311 new cases in individuals under 12 and 17,310 new cases in individuals ages 12-19. Teenagers now represent the highest case positivity group of any age within the state.

To find out more about the spike in cases of vulnerable populations click [here](#).

### Suncoast COVID-19 Stats Week of August 23, 2021

| COUNTY    | 7 Day Rolling Ave. of Daily New Cases | A Population ^12 with at Least One Vaccination Dose |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Charlotte | 162  last wk: 120                     | 70%   |
| DeSoto    | 39  last wk: 30                       | 50%   |
| Manatee   | 477  last wk: 378                     | 63%   |
| Sarasota  | 408  last wk: 340                     | 73%   |

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 more to get vaccinated. [Getting vaccinated](#) is the best protection against the variants, including delta.

### 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 Karnei at:

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



#COVID19  
@ThePattersonFdn



To access this graphic, click [here](#).



### Mask Mythbusters: Common Questions about Kids & Face Masks

**Question:** Can wearing a mask make it harder for my child to breathe?

**Answer:** There have been concerns that face masks can reduce oxygen intake, and can lead to low blood oxygen levels, known as hypoxemia. However, masks are made from breathable materials that will not block the oxygen your child needs.

**Question:** Can masks interfere with a child's lung development?

**Answer:** No, wearing a face mask will not affect your child's lungs from developing normally. Keeping your child's lungs healthy is important, which includes preventing infections like COVID-19.

**Question:** Can masks lead to a weaker immune system by putting the body under stress?

**Answer:** No. Wearing a face mask does not weaken your immune system or increase your chances of getting sick if exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

**Question:** How do masks prevent the spread of COVID-19?

**Answer:** When worn correctly, face masks create a barrier that reduces the spray of a person's spit and respiratory droplets.



**KNOW  
YOUR RISK**

Older adults who get COVID-19 are at greater risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death. But people of any age with underlying medical conditions are also at increased risk.

Learn more about the conditions that put you at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 [here](#).