COVID-19 Updates and Resources – February 25, 2022

1) Current Cases and Statistics
   - As we begin to move out of the emergency phase of the pandemic, Teton County Health Department has made some changes to the Teton County COVID-19 Dashboard. Though Teton County has remained in the High or Red COVID-19 Risk Level since July 2021, there have been changes that make Teton County’s COVID-19 situation different from other areas of the County.
     - Please refer to the press release from last week for more information on the updated Dashboard.
   - 72 cases reported between 02/18 and 02/24 (7 days) for an average of 10.3 cases/day. This is a 36.3% decrease from the previous 7-day period.
   - The case rate during this period was 306.9 per 100,000 population.
   - Between 02/11 and 02/24 (14 days), 43.9% of interviewed cases were attributed to community spread.
   - For the past two weeks, 6.39% of COVID-19 tests taken in Teton County received a positive result according to the Wyoming Department of Health.
   - As of 02/22, 88.08% of Teton County residents have completed their primary vaccination series according to the Wyoming Department of Health. An estimated 40.5% have received a third dose/booster.
   - As of 02/25, St John’s Health had a 7-day average of:
     - 0.71 patients with COVID-19 in the PCU.
     - 0.14 patients with COVID-19 in the ICU.
   - An estimated 30.2% of patients with COVID-19 admitted in the past 30 days have been Teton County residents.
   - Teton County Health Department sends out a weekly update and Nixle message. To receive the weekly updates through Nixle, text “TC_COVID” to 888777 to receive any COVID Nixle messages.

2) Recent CDC Changes/Announcement
   - As of today, February 25th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made changes to the metrics they use to determine whether to recommend face coverings, shifting from looking at COVID-19 community transmission levels (case rates and percent positivity) to COVID-19 community levels (new COVID-19 hospital admissions, percent of staffed inpatient bed occupied by COVID-19 patients) to provide a more comprehensive look at risk of COVID-19 for community. The new policy comes as the Biden administration moves to shift its focus to preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19, rather than all instances of infection, as part of a strategy adjustment for a new “phase” in the response as the virus becomes endemic.
   - Learn more about the CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels by clicking here.
   - The Health Department is currently evaluating our metrics and recommendations for Teton County and will be sending out more information early next week.

3) Teton County Recommendations
   - We understand that many people in our community feel differently today about their individual risk tolerance to COVID-19 than they did even a month ago. However, we would like to provide guidance to the community to help protect those who are the most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 disease or death, including individuals age 50+, the immunocompromised, individuals with other underlying health conditions, and the unvaccinated.
     - Please refer to the recent press release to learn about specific recommendations for the most vulnerable population.
     - Recommendation #12 is still in place.
     - In this guidance it is recommended that everyone 2 and older should wear a mask in crowded indoor settings no matter vaccination status, when in an area of high or substantial COVID-19 transmission. In addition, mask wearing is recommended when in crowded outdoor settings.
       - Crowded indoor settings include but are not limited to schools, childcare facilities, restaurants, bars, movie theaters, grocery stores, retail stores, aerial trams, gondolas, and workplaces.
     - View and print mask signage options specific to the recommendation, by clicking here.
   - As a reminder, businesses can always make masks mandatory at their place of business.

4) COVID-19 Related Questions?
   - Call our COVID-19 Call Center at 307-732-8628 between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday-Friday or email covidvax@tetoncountywv.gov for assistance or with any questions. Our Call center can answer questions related to vaccines, testing, isolate and trace guidance, and or put you in contact with one of our nurses.
5) Updated and Shortened Isolation and Quarantine Recommendations
   • Click here for the 2/4/22 Isolation and Quarantine Recommendation Summary Chart in English and here for the Spanish version.

6) Isolate & Trace Update
   • Teton County Health Department’s (TCSD) Isolate & Trace Team is prioritizing calling cases who may be at high risk of severe illness including, those in certain high-risk settings (where it is difficult to limit transmission, eg. congregate settings) and other vulnerable populations.
     o We encourage all individuals to contact their health care provider immediately for possible treatment options.
     o The prioritization used is similar to the WY Department of Health’s priority structure and other published/referred information.
   • Individuals who do not get prioritized may not receive a call from the Teton County Health Department.
   • We encourage all individuals to notify their close contacts.
   • TCHD is following shortened isolation instructions/recommendations:
     o Minimum 5 days of isolation from symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic).
     o Please note: Individuals should start their isolation period over again if symptoms begin AFTER a positive test. Day 0 would become when symptom onset begins.
     o Guidance and recommendations for individuals who work or live in high-risk environments may be different. Don’t hesitate to reach out to problem solve your unique setting. Click here for the full CDC webpage and details on HCW isolation and quarantine.

7) Antigen Testing Information
   • Every home in the U.S. now has access to 4 free rapid COVID-19 antigen tests through a new federally run website.
     o Click here to order.
     o Shipments are limited to one shipment/order per address. Ships via USPS so use mailing address/PO Box.
     o No proof of insurance or identification is needed.
     o Print flyer.
   • Antigen tests can be purchased here in bulk and here.
   • Vault is now selling Antigen tests that can be either proctored or unproctored.
     o Businesses can order antigen tests (minimum order is 10 tests) for $12 each OR businesses can order the tests AND proctoring services (for an additional $15/test) making the total kit $27/test. Minimum order is 10 tests. Results take 25-30 min.
     o Businesses that would like to access results can pay a one-time fee to set up a dashboard with Vault.
     o For more information, reach out to Todd Chan at tchan@vaulthealth.com.

8) PCR Testing Information
   • PCR Testing (Curative and or Vault) is not encouraged after an initial positive test and for the subsequent 90 days.
     o Please do not require a negative PCR test for employees to return to work. As long as individuals are following the recommended guidelines for Isolation they may return to work with additional precautions. Molecular tests are sensitive, and individuals may continue to test positive for a period of time after their initial infectious period. Please reserve this no cost community testing benefit for those who need it most. Some exceptions exist for retesting within the first 90-day period after testing positive. Contact the Health Department or your healthcare professional if you have questions.

**CURATIVE TESTS:**

• Curative Rapid Testing
  o NO WALK-UPS ALLOWED. APPOINTMENT ONLY - www.curative.com
  o Encourage all staff to please cancel their appointment at the rapid testing center if they are not able to make it. They can do this through the Curative system, so the spot becomes available for others.
  o Please check the curative site frequently, as appointments are cancelled, appointments become available.
  o Only for 5 years old and older
  o Located at 520 S. Highway in the Target/Kmart Plaza next to Subway.
  o Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM; Saturdays 9 AM – 1 PM

• Stilson Lot Curative Kiosk
  o Monday through Friday
  o 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM
  o Appointments encouraged www.curative.com

• Teton County Library Curative Kiosk
  o Monday through Friday
  o 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
9) COVID-19 Vaccine Update

**Immunocompromised 16+ Individuals:**
- Individuals who are immunocompromised and initially received J&J are now able to get an additional dose, which then can be followed up by a booster 2 months later.
- Individuals who got J&J and are immunocompromised may have already gotten a 2nd dose; that is now their additional dose, and these individuals should come in for a booster.
- Individuals who are immunocompromised, initially received two mRNA doses and have gotten their additional dose now only need to wait 3 months (not 5 months) before getting their booster.
- See more guidance for immunocompromised individuals in the press release that went out last week.

**For 12+ years:**
- The 12+ vaccine clinic is closed until March 1st.
- Beginning on March 1st the clinic will be back at the Teton County Health Department.
- Appointments are preferred and can be made now for March. Schedule here.
  - Walk-ins accepted (regardless of dose number) from 9:30 AM -- 11:30 AM
- All individuals 12+ years should receive a booster shot when eligible:
  - Pfizer and Moderna: 5 months after completion of primary series
  - J&J: 2 months after single dose
- Mixing and matching of vaccine types for booster doses is acceptable for adults 18+ years.
- There is no ***required*** waiting time in between someone being released from COVID-19 isolation and their ability to get a booster. Please do not show up to the vaccine clinic if you are actively on isolation. Someone’s primary care provider may make alternate recommendations about waiting some time, but there are no hard requirements.
- Can’t make your scheduled appointment? Cancel your appointment here.

**For Children 5-11 Years Old:**
- Vaccine clinics for 5–11-year-olds remains at the Teton County Health Department, 460 E Pearl Ave
  - Mondays 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
  - Appointments required and can be made here or by calling our Call Center at 307-732-8628.
- An additional dose for children 5-11 years who have moderately or seriously compromised immune systems are now authorized. Documentation of the qualifying condition is requested at the appointment. See information regarding eligible conditions and more at this link.
  - Individuals must wait at least 28 days after receiving their 2nd dose before getting their additional dose.
- Smith’s Pharmacy also has appointments for 5-11 year olds to receive a Pfizer vaccine on Saturdays. Book on their website.
  Parents and guardians should consult their healthcare provider or family physician for additional guidance or questions they have regarding the COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years old.

**For Children Under 5 Years of Age:**
- Current timeline for vaccines for under 5 years of age is more like mid-April now.
- The FDA Advisory Panel was going to meet on February 15th, but they announced on February 11th that the meeting will be postponed in order to get more data on the 3rd dose.
- According to the FDA press release, the 3rd dose data will not be completed until early April.

10) Free KN95 and Surgical Masks
- Smith’s Grocery Store Pharmacy is now carrying free KN95 masks through the new White House Program.
  - Masks are distributed through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. TCHD is not participating in this distribution.
  - Limited to 3 masks per person.
- Free surgical masks are available at the JH Chamber of Commerce. Just stop by! 260 W Broadway, Suite A, 7 days a week from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.