

Press Release
August 17, 2021

Lee County Judge's Office
from
Pandemic Coordinator Frank Malinak

Due to the increase in positive COVID cases in Lee County, a walk-up vaccination clinic hosted by state and local officials as well as the National Guard, is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2021, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Giddings Public Library. Advanced registration will not be required. There will be a choice between the two-shot Moderna vaccine for adults and the two-shot Pfizer vaccine for those twelve and older.

News reports abound on increasing threats from the Coronavirus including the lack of intensive care facilities throughout the state. From March through May of this year, Lee County partnered with the Texas Department of Emergency Management, the military, and Pieratt's Pharmacy to administer the Moderna two-shot vaccine. Clinics were held in Giddings, Lincoln, and Lexington as the state and nation implemented robust vaccination programs to build herd immunity. In June, Covid-19 case numbers fell into single digits in Lee County. The demand for inoculations declined after only about forty percent of the county population had been vaccinated. Then the virus did what viruses often do in a large-scale world-wide pandemic—it mutated into the delta variant.

The delta variant is more infectious and increasing case numbers makes it is more dangerous. Vaccines have been found to be effective in preventing most cases. There are occasional "breakthrough" cases in vaccinated persons but in those instances, the illness is generally milder and requires no hospitalization. Ninety-five percent of persons hospitalized with Covid-19, are unvaccinated.

On August 11, 2021, County Judge Paul Fischer called an urgent meeting with county and city officials to assess the need for additional action. In the interest of providing accurate information to counter vaccine skepticism, Texas Department of State Health Services has accepted the county's invitation to give presentations on August 25th at the Noon Lions Club in Giddings and on August 26th at the Rotary Club in Giddings. Additional presentations in a wider public forum may be considered.

With the recent increase in Covid cases which are primarily due to the delta variant, more Lee County residents have sought vaccinations from local pharmacies and health care facilities. This increased demand, the rising infection rates and the large number of county residents who remain unvaccinated, warrants additional inoculation support from the State of Texas.

The coronavirus can result in long term effects or even death. Being vaccinated helps protect you from the threat this virus poses. There is no way to determine which healthy individuals among us may be most susceptible to the life-threatening consequences of this illness. The report of another Covid death is sometimes minimized by the revelation the patient had an underlying health issue. The very nature of the miracle of today's modern medicine is to allow each of us to live long healthy lives despite our long list of underlying health problems and comorbidities. The issue of vaccine safety is front and center. Today, a social media search will yield almost every conceivable position to match any opinion. Top medical professionals around the world as well as local medical practitioners recommend vaccinations to get control of this global pandemic.

Lee County Weekly Covid Cases

