

COVID 19 Inservice 7/21/21

1. Update on the Delta Virus – We are not done yet but we have Much Better tools now
 - a. “The delta variant is not last year's virus, and it's become incredibly apparent to healthcare workers that we are dealing with a different beast”
 - b. It is More infectious, more dangerous and more deadly
 - c. As of Tuesday the Delta variant accounted for 83% of COVID cases in the US
 - d. As per the CDC: The 4th wave is here
 - e. Colorado is very Proficient in sequencing – We find more of the truth of how much Delta variant is in our state
 - i. Latest data from Colorado from 7/16/21 is that we have identified 1,678 Delta cases in Colorado, about 70% in Mesa and El Paso county
 - ii. 85-90% of COVID tests that are sequenced are the Delta Variant
 - iii. In Arapahoe county: We do have the Delta Variant along with all the other choices
2. COVID 19 vaccination protection
 - a. All 3 of the COVID 19 vaccine protect against the COVID 19 variants Including the Delta variants
 - b. IT IS OUR BEST TOOL AND WILL SAVE OUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE WE CARE FOR
 - c. 97% of the people in the US who are hospitalized are unvaccinated
 - d. 99.3% of the people who died from COVID now are unvaccinated
 - e. Let's be clear: what is the vaccine supposed to do?
 - i. Protect against severe disease, hospitalization, need for a ventilator and death
 - ii. There will be breakthrough cases and that is OK
 - iii. What is most important is to prevent people from becoming deathly ill and dying AND spreading COVID 19
 - iv. It also protects those around you who may be immunosuppressed, on cancer treatments
 - f. Our patient who got COVID 19 – unvaccinated and started to get very sick, got Mab
 - i. It was an unfortunate reminder to me how sick our residents can get
 - g. When you are vaccinated you also help Prevent the development of Other COVID 19 variants
 - h. Why Should I get the vaccine if I have already had COVID?
 - i. Study just published Nature
 - ii. If you have had COVID 19, you are Not fully protected, your protection is incomplete
 - iii. BUT if you get vaccinated, the vaccine seems to work with the immunity you have and you “ **confers strong resistance against variants of concern, including the B.1.617.2 (delta) variant.**” JAMA July 14, 2021

3. Boosters
 - a. CDC says not yet
 - b. The CDC and ACIP are specifically monitoring nursing home residents and staff to see when boosters may be needed
 - c. They are giving Boosters to vulnerable people in Israel
 - d. Pfizer has already asked the FDA for a EUA approval for a booster shot. So when and if we need a booster, it will be ready
 - e. Remember, it is not only about antibody protection (never use an antibody test to decide if you should get the COVID 19 vaccine)
 - i. We think that the T cell response may be very important to our immune protection against COVID 19
4. Lambda variant in Texas, from Peru, also spreading in South America
5. What can we expect for the Future
 - a. We have an incredible diligent and dedicated leadership team
 - b. Our vaccination rates are Great but we are still hoping to do better
 - i. 94% for residents and 84% for Staff
 - ii. This will not protect the unvaccinated staff because the Delta variant is so contagious and out in the community.
 - c. We have your back
 - d. COVID 19 Strike Force: Some changes to infectious control coming
 - i. Mostly for unvaccinated staff and patients in terms of testing
 - ii. Hopefully no further isolation for new patients who are vaccinated
 - e. We have good processes in place, if you are vaccinated, you are in a very good protected space
 - i. You still need to wear your mask, do hand hygiene and ensure you are wearing the PPE needed for each patient
6. What can you do to make things Better
 - a. Even if you are vaccinated, be diligent
 - i. Wear your mask if you are indoors
 - b. If you see an open door with an unvaccinated person, Tell them why you got vaccinated
 - c. If you have questions, ask them, If I do not know the answer, I will find it
 - d. Be proud of what each one of you have done, you have saved lives, helped the most vulnerable in our society, You have made our community a better, safer and healthier place
 - i. And you have my profound gratitude