



ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 VACCINES PROVING EFFECTIVE IN ITASCA COUNTY

(Grand Rapids, Minn. – Aug. 24, 2021) – Over the six months that COVID-19 vaccines have been available in Itasca County, 21,399 Itasca residents have been fully vaccinated and 0.38 percent, less than one-half of one percent, have since tested positive for the infection. Of the 81 total who have experienced breakthrough infections, seven have been hospitalized and none have died.

During the week ending Aug. 23, Itasca County has seen 47 additional cases of COVID-19 infection, a number slightly down from 60 the week before that and significantly higher than in July. The current 14-day case rate per 10,000 residents is 23.9.

Itasca County remains in CDC's "high rate of transmission" category and residents and visitors are encouraged to wear masks when indoors and away from home, no matter their vaccination status.

"As the weeks and months go on, it is very clear that vaccines are working and COVID-19 still is a real threat in our local communities," said Kelly Chandler, Itasca County Public Health division manager.

"There are ample supplies of vaccine available for Itasca County residents, and with full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccines this week we have even more assurance that they are safe and effective."

Vaccination rates in Itasca County continue to climb, with half of all residents, 58 percent of those ages 12 and older, 59 percent of those 16 and older and 87 percent of those 65 and older receiving at least their first dose.

Itasca residents with questions or concerns may leave them at the Itasca County COVID message line, with calls returned 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Itasca COVID line number is 218-327-6784.

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Note to media: An online press briefing via ZOOM is scheduled for Sept. 16, 10:00 a.m., featuring local health professionals sharing what is known today about COVID-19, prevention and treatments.

Itasca County Public Health media contact: Kelly Chandler, 218-327-6144
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