COVID UPDATE
9.12.22
Today's Presentation

- Current state of the pandemic: nation, state, local
- Other diseases of concern: The flu is coming
- New CDC guidance re quarantining and isolation
- New booster: What?, When?
- Fall/winter?
NATIONAL SITUATION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

- **Number of recorded cases continues to fall (remember, the actual number of new cases are likely 5 to 10 times greater)**
- **Deaths continue at around 400/day, but are falling**
  - This appears to be an acceptable number of deaths for most Americans
Transmission levels, the number of new cases, have decoupled from hospitalizations and deaths.

NC numbers improving.
NC NUMBERS IMPROVING

- Deaths have plummeted over the last two weeks
- Number of new reported cases are falling
- Test positivity still elevated
COMMUNITY LEVELS IN NC

[Map showing different levels of community in NC with colors for Low, Medium, High, and No Data]
ORANGE CO. TRENDS OVER PAST 90 DAYS

- **Reported cases are slowly falling**
- **Hospitalizations are down**
- **High test positivity suggests significant under-reporting of cases**
- **Orange County is now at the intermediate (yellow colored) level**
When the COVID-19 Community Level is Medium or High:

- If you are at high risk of getting very sick, wear a high-quality mask or respirator (e.g., N95) when indoors in public.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.

CDC GUIDANCE REGARDING MASKING IN CONDITION YELLOW

IF YOU HAVE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED PERSONS OR SENIORS IN YOUR SERVICES, CDC SUGGESTS ATTENDEES SHOULD BE MASKED

COVID not the only respiratory dz.
WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE A LARGE AMOUNT OF FLU THIS WINTER

• Large number of cases in the southern hemisphere suggests lots of flu during the northern hemisphere winter

• Get vaccinated
  • Best timing for flu vaccine is late October or early November
  •Earlier if cases ratchet up in the near future
  •COVID and flu vaccine can be given at the same visit
CDC TRANSITIONS TO NEW APPROACH TO COVID MANAGEMENT

- Prioritize preventing severe illness and death—allowing most of population to get back to more normal life thru:
  - Vaccinations/Bivalent boosters
  - Antivirals (Paxlovid) for those at risk
  - Selective use of quality masks, testing in high risk situations
  - Ventilation

Changes in distance, quarantining, isolation
CHANGES IN GUIDANCE FOR QUARANTINE, ISOLATION

• **No six foot rule**

• **No quarantine if exposed to someone with COVID**

• **Clearer guidance** if exposed, test +’ve or ill.

• **Includes chatbot to walk you thru guidance**
NEW BIVALENT BOOSTER

- **What:** mRNA vaccine that produces antibodies focused on original COVID and Omicron B.4/5.
- **Eligibility:** Everyone 12 or older who has had two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or one of J and J.
- **When tested in the same way the flu vaccine is tested, evidence indicated strong protection against severe disease, even Omicron.
COVID-19 Vaccination Schedule for People who are NOT Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

People ages 6 months through 4 years

- Moderna
  Primary → Primary
  In 4-8 weeks

  -OR-

- Pfizer-BioNTech
  Primary → Primary → Primary
  In 3-8 weeks
  In at least 8 weeks

People ages 5 through 11 years

- Moderna
  Primary → Primary
  In 4-8 weeks

  -OR-

- Pfizer-BioNTech
  Primary → Primary → Monovalent booster
  In 3-8 weeks
  In at least 5 months

People ages 12 years and older

- Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech
  Primary → Primary → Bivalent booster
  In 3-8 weeks (Novavax, Pfizer) OR
  In 4-8 weeks (Moderna)
  In at least 2 months

People ages 18 years and older who previously received Janssen primary series dose

Primary → Bivalent booster
In at least 2 months

*The bivalent booster dose is administered at least 2 months after completion of the primary series. For people who previously received a monovalent booster dose(s), the bivalent booster dose is administered at least 2 months after the last monovalent booster dose.

Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine should only be used in certain limited situations. See: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us-appendix-a

Optimal schedule?
OPTIMUM BOOSTER TIMING FOR 12 YEARS AND OLDER

- **<2-3 months since infection/vaccination**: Wait.
- **3-4 months since infection/vaccination**: Consider a booster if you’re high risk, or have an event. (Get your booster 2 weeks before this event for optimal protection).
- **4-6 months since infection/vaccination**: Get your booster at some point.
- **6+ months since infection/vaccination**: Get your booster ASAP.

Find the new updated booster [here](#)
WHAT WILL COVID DO THIS FALL/WINTER?
THE BEST ESTIMATES ARE EDUCATED GUESSES

• **Known Unknowns**
  • Will a new resistant variant emerge?
  • Will people seek out the new vaccine?
  • Will behaviors change if things worsen

• **Informed Guesses**
  • 100 million new cases (median) over late fall/winter — Biden Administration
  • Peaking about Dec 1 — Peter Marks, Director FDA

• **Currently, about 400 COVID deaths/day**
  • If current death rate continues, that would make about 145,000 COVID deaths/year.
  • Flu, averaged 12,000 to 52,000 deaths/yr between 2010 and 2020