

COVID Update 7/9/2021

The Delta variant, as expected, is now the dominant variant in the US. There are high population density pockets of unvaccinated individuals at risk for outbreaks, and development of additional mutations, in the southeastern US.

South Carolina is now ninth in the nation in vaccination rates, with 43% fully vaccinated, and 49% having received one dose.

There was a small, worrisome upward blip in cases for SC last week, but so far, new COVID cases in SC and Greenville County have remained low. However, 94% of new cases, and 90% of hospitalizations, were in individuals not fully vaccinated, and all 11 deaths were in unvaccinated people. Genetic sequencing takes awhile but DHEC is testing some positive cases for variants. But it is a good bet that the current new cases are mostly Delta variant, since that is the pattern in adjacent states.

At AnMed Health, where there had been no COVID cases in the hospital for weeks, as of last Friday, there were 5 people hospitalized with COVID, including 2 in the ICU, and all were unvaccinated.

So data continues to accumulate that the current vaccines are highly protective against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Health officials continue efforts to educate the public on the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, and to counter the many myths circulating. The vaccines clearly do NOT cause infertility; do NOT alter one's DNA; do NOT contain any magnetic material or tracking devices; and do NOT cause COVID-19 illness..