



# City of Chester COVID Response

MFRAC Presentation  
July 27, 2021



# Presentation Overview

- Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic is still not over. This presentation will update the MFRAC committee on the COVID response in the City of Chester. We will also have Dr. Christopher Hannum discuss the “delta variant,” the importance of vaccinations, and some of the misinformation circulating in the public.
- Panelists
  - Dr. Christopher Hannum
  - Livia Smith. City Director of Community/Public Health
  - Rosetta Carter. City Community Health Education Coordinator

# Presentation Outline

- The Delta Variant, Vaccines and Misinformation
- City of Chester Situation and Response





# The Delta Variant, Vaccines, and Misinformation



# Current COVID Situation

- The COVID-19 pandemic is not over
- After a period of disease decline, countries across the world, including the United States are experiencing a significant increase in COVID cases due to the “delta variant”
  - The delta variant appears to be much easier to spread than previous versions of COVID-19
    - However, vaccines appear to be effective against it
- The delta variant is likely already in the region. We need to be ready for it



# Vaccinating Kids

- Currently, only the Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for kids between the ages of 12 and 18
  - Vaccine authorization for kids under 12 is expected in the fall. Studies are currently underway.
- Pfizer requires two shots. The second shot should take place 21 days after the first shot
- The first day of school in the Chester Upland School District is August 30th. Therefore, if parents want their kids to be fully vaccinated before going to school, the last day to get their first shot is **August 10<sup>th</sup>**.
- We are trying to get parents vaccinated when they bring their kids to get vaccinated

# Side Effects of Vaccines (24-48 Hours)



- On the arm where you got the shot
  - Pain
  - Redness
  - Swelling
- Throughout the rest of your body
  - Tiredness
  - Headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Chills
  - Fever
  - Nausea

Source: [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](#)

# Why Such a Push to Vaccinate Kids?



- We don't want to have to shut schools down again
  - If you are unvaccinated, you will have to quarantine for 14 days after your exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - If you are unvaccinated and test positive for COVID-19, you are required to self-isolate for 10 days. You will not be able to return to work or school until you test negative.
- If kids get vaccinated, their parents will likely get vaccinated too



# How Will COVID Impact Sports?



- If there is a COVID outbreak on a team, the team may have to forfeit games due to quarantine
  - If you are unvaccinated, you will have to quarantine for 14 days after your exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - If you are unvaccinated and test positive for COVID-19, you are required to self-isolate for 10 days. You will not be able to return to work or school until you test negative.

# Misinformation About COVID Vaccine



- Misinformation on social media has caused people to distrust or become confused about the COVID vaccines
- Some misinformation campaigns have targeted communities of color, which have been disproportionately hurt by COVID
- The following slides address some of the more common myths circulating on social media

# Myth #1 – Vaccine Changes My DNA



- Not true.
- From CDC: “COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.”

# Myth #2 – Vaccine Impacts Fertility



- From CDC: “There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.”

# Myth #3 – There’s A Microchip in the Vaccine



- False.
- From Los Angeles County Public Health Department:
  - “There are no microchips or any kind of tracking device in the vaccines for COVID-19. This myth is based on a fake video that was going around on the internet. It claimed that the pandemic is a cover for a plan to implant microchips to track people and that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is behind it. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has gone on record to state this was false. Like many online myths, this is a story that is hard to stop even after it has been debunked over and over.
  - The needle that is used to give a COVID-19 vaccine is much smaller than even the smallest microchip.”

# Myth #4 – Vaccine Will Make Me Magnetic



- Not true.
- From CDC: “Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.”
- From Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health: “You may have seen videos on social media showing magnets sticking to people’s arms where they got a vaccine to try to prove the vaccines contain microchips or that a needle is left behind. This is just a trick. Magnets can easily be made to stick to the skin with tape or ointment. Even pressing a magnet or coin firmly to your skin can make it stick. Plus, the amount of metal needed to attract a magnet is too large to fit in the needle that is used to give a COVID-19 vaccine.”

# Myth #5 – I Think That I Already Had COVID, So I Don't Need The Vaccine



- From CDC: “You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That’s because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Studies have shown that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection in people who have recovered from COVID-19.”

# How Do I Get Vaccinated?



- Simply go to any location that is offering COVID vaccines – there are locations in Chester!
  - See next slide
  - You can also call Ms. Rosetta Carter at 610-447-7700 x7955 and she will help you find a location
- You do not need ID. Your privacy and immigration status are protected



# Where Can I Get Vaccinated in Chester?



Tuesday July 27	Wednesday July 28	Thursday July 29	Friday July 30	Saturday July 31
ChesPenn 125 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street By Appointment 610-872-6131 9am – 5pm (Pfizer Vaccine)	ChesPenn 125 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street By Appointment 610-872-6131 9am – 5pm (Pfizer Vaccine)	ChesPenn 125 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street By Appointment 610-872-6131 9am – 5pm (Pfizer Vaccine)	ChesPenn Mobile Truck 1420 Esrey St. 1:30pm-5pm	St. Luke/Chester Churches Clinic 320 Tilghman St. 11am-2pm
Everest Urgent Care 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson 9am-5pm	Everest Urgent Care 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson 9am-5pm	Everest Urgent Care 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson 9am-5pm	Everest Urgent Care 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson 9am-5pm	Everest Urgent Care 9 <sup>th</sup> & Wilson 9am-5pm
		Keystone Wellness Center 1929 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street 3pm-7pm (Moderna Vaccine Only)		Keystone Wellness Center 1929 W. 9 <sup>th</sup> Street 11am-3pm (Modern Vaccine Only)
				Rep. Kirkland's Street Jam Avenue of the States 1pm-5pm

# Do I Need to Pay for Vaccinations?



- No. You've already paid because taxpayers bought the vaccinations already. Go and get the vaccination that you already paid for!
- Some drug stores may ask you for insurance if you have it, but they are only doing so for administrative reasons – **YOU WILL NOT BE CHARGED FOR THE VACCINE!**

# Transportation Help



- Delaware County is providing free transportation for Chester residents to get their COVID vaccinations through COSA
  - Request two-day advanced notice
- To arrange for pick-up call Ms. Rosetta Carter at 610-447-7700 x7955



# City of Chester Situation & Response

# City of Chester Situation



- As of July 26, 2021, per the OpenData PA website, in zip code 19013 (which is essentially the City of Chester):
  - 10,746 people are fully vaccinated
    - On July 6th, 9,674 residents had been fully vaccinated – improvement of 1,072 people!
  - 1,669 partially vaccinated
- Chester has approximately 27,967 people over the age of 12
  - (Estimate based on 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table S0101)
- Chester’s residents are particularly vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 due to low vaccination rates and are prone to suffer worse symptoms due to underlying health conditions

# Partnerships



- Chester-Upland School District
- City of Chester
- Widener University
- Chester Boys & Girls Club
- Chester Charter School (East)
- Delaware County COVID Task Force
- Keystone First
- Chester Community Churches
- State Rep. Brian Kirkland's Office
- ChesPenn
- Good Health Pharmacy
- Woodlyn Pharmacy
- Laborer's Local 413
- Chester City Health Board
- Chester Housing Authority
- Chester Bidly League
- PA Department of Health
- Medical Society of Eastern PA
- Chester Branch, NAACP
- Chester East Side, Inc.
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Twin Oaks
- Rite Aid Pharmacy

# Partnerships







# What Have We Learned?

- Hardest group to vaccinate is between 20 and 40
  - Also most likely to have school-aged kids so trying to reach these individuals by getting kids vaccinated since we if kids get vaccinated, parents get vaccinated
  - Starting to see this group coming in for vaccinations
- Kids responding well to coaches and youth ambassadors
- Transportation is a significant barrier for vaccinations
  - Even people with cars will not travel far for a vaccination
- Residents need help finding out where to go to get vaccinated
  - Residents use their cell phones; many do not have computers
- Working with partners in City has been most successful in getting people vaccinated
- Misinformation on social media is confusing people



# On-going Efforts/Next Steps



- Canvassing parts of City where data shows low vaccination rates
  - Use of ChesPenn mobile unit
  - Doorknockers targeting youth and adults with Chester residents on them
- City and Keystone First calling people who have gotten first shot to make sure they come to get second
  - Also calling those who have contacted City seeking COVID help to ask if their kids, grandkids or other family members have gotten vaccinated
- School district will be doing robocalls
- Virtual town halls
- Outreach to churches, barbershops and salons
- Pop-up clinics at major City events
- Creating a central website for Chester residents with COVID information
  - Running social media ads
- Planning for when children under age 12 are eligible for vaccinations

# What About City of Chester Employees?



- This week and next, the City will have mandatory employee meetings at which Dr. Hannum will talk about COVID-19 and vaccinations and will answer questions that employees may have
  - Trying to encourage employees to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, their fellow employees, and the public
- Will require a face mask for anyone in City Hall, at all times

# Need More Information?

- Call Ms. Rosetta Carter at 610-447-7700 x7955

