

July 28, 2021

A Reminder Of What We Know

- The vaccines work. They are incredibly effective at preventing illness, hospitalization and death, even though they're not a 100% guarantee (nothing works 100% of the time).¹
- The Delta variant of COVID-19 is highly transmittable. 49 states, including Texas, are experiencing steep increases in positive cases.²
- The current surge in Delta cases is 'a pandemic of the unvaccinated.' Nationwide, fewer than 1% of fully vaccinated people have experienced symptomatic COVID infections.³ From February 8 to July 14 in Texas, 99.5% of COVID-related deaths were among unvaccinated people. That percentage is generally true across the country.⁴
- In Texas, as of July 25, approx. 43% of population is fully vaccinated. 50% have received at least one dose.⁴
- Within the Diocese of West Texas as of this letter, about 18 of our 60 counties report vaccination rates of 40-59%. Most of the remaining counties report rates of 30-40%.⁵
- Most health experts think that achieving herd immunity would require 75-90% of the population be fully vaccinated.⁴
- The greatest threat to unvaccinated people, including children, is other unvaccinated people.³

1. *Science Brief: COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 July 2021, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html.
2. *COVID-19 Integrated County View: Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updates daily by 8pm ET*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.
3. Sullivan, Becky. "U.S. COVID Deaths Are Rising Again. Experts Call It A 'Pandemic Of The Unvaccinated.'" National Public Radio, 16 July 2021, www.npr.org/2021/07/16/1017002907/u-s-covid-deaths-are-rising-again-experts-call-it-a-pandemic-of-the-unvaccinated.
4. Guzman, Colleen. "Texas Has Seen Nearly 9,000 COVID-19 Deaths since February. All But 43 Were Unvaccinated People." *Texas Tribune*, 22 July 2021, www.texastribune.org/2021/07/21/coronavirus-texas-vaccinated-deaths.
5. *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Vaccine Data*, Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus>.

