

This Month in Public Health

in Seneca County
July 7, 2021, Edition

Hot Topic in the News: COVID-19 Delta Variant

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy report growing concern about the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) for Americans. Why?

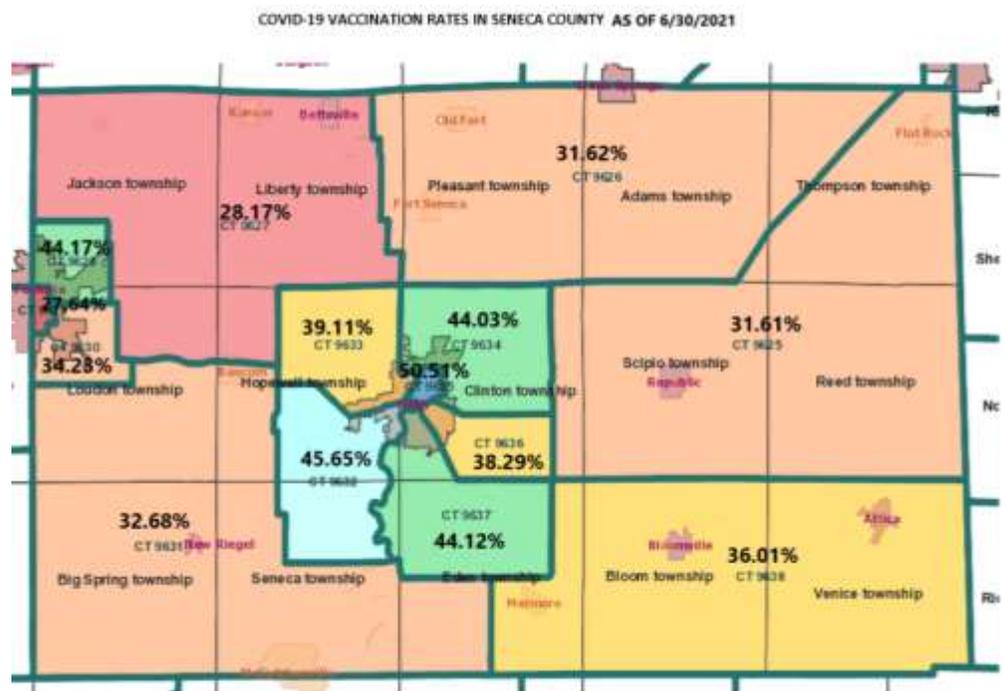
- It is common for viruses to frequently mutate, but these changes aren't always of concern because they often don't place us at greater risk for severe illness.
- However, the highly infectious Delta variant, first detected in India in Feb 2021, has now spread to almost 100 countries according to the latest World Health Organization (WHO) data.
 - It spreads 2½ times faster/ more easily than any other known variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Possible Impact of Delta Variant on Americans/Ohioans/Seneca Countians

- The Delta variant is responsible for most new infections in India, United States, United Kingdom, Russia, South Africa, and numerous other countries.
 - This variant now accounts for 25% of all new COVID-19 cases in the U.S., up from just 6% of cases in early June. CDC anticipates it will become the most common variant in the U.S. by mid-July.
- There is good evidence that persons who are fully vaccinated have a high degree of protection against the Delta variant.
- **The Surgeon General cautions, "Persons who are not vaccinated are in trouble."**
 - The Delta variant poses the greatest risk in parts of the country where vaccination rates are lagging (especially those with <30% of residents vaccinated).
 - Approximately 1,000 counties in the U.S.- including Holmes, Adams, Lawrence, Highland, Shelby, Hardin, Vinton, Darke, Coshocton, and Brown counties in Ohio- have vaccination coverage of less than 30%.

Current Status of COVID-19 Vaccinations in Seneca County

- COVID-19 vaccination rates range from 27.6% (the pink areas in the NW corner) to 50.5% (the bright blue area in Tiffin) in Seneca County. Overall, only 1 out of every 3 residents is fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Large swaths of our county are poorly protected.
- Our goal is to get at least 50% (and ideally, closer to 70%) of local residents fully vaccinated so that the Delta variant can't wreak havoc here like it is in Arkansas, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, and Utah.
- To help us reach this goal, our nurses and 2 travelling nurses are taking COVID-19 vaccinations "on the road" across Seneca County in July and Aug.
- **We especially want to offer 1- to 2-hr small pop-up vaccination clinics at township halls, fire departments, churches, club meetings, community**



events, Bible studies, workplaces, community events, etc. to make it more convenient for residents. If you're willing to host an event, please call Meranda Koehl at (419) 447-3691, ext. 6337, or Andrea Cook at ext. 6326, to get it scheduled.

When and Where Can I Get My COVID-19 Vaccination?

- Seneca County General Health District currently has 10 COVID-19 vaccine clinics on the July calendar, and more are being planned. We will be offering all 3 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson) at these clinics.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
4	5	6	7 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	8 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	9	10 Tiffin Farmers' Market (exact location TBD); 9a-1p
11	12	13	14 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	15 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	16	17
18	19	20	21 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	22 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	23	24 Tiffin Farmers' Market (exact location TBD); 9a-1p
25	26	27	28 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	29 Health Dept. - 71 S Washington, Tiffin; Walk-ins welcome 9a-3:30p	30	31

- Based on info found at www.gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.org and www.vaccines.gov/, other locations are:
 - Fostoria: Kroger Pharmacy; Promedica Fostoria Hospital; Promedica Physicians Drs Badik & Badik; RiteAid Pharmacy;
 - Tiffin: CVS Pharmacy; Kroger Pharmacy; RiteAid Pharmacy; Tiffin Community Health Center; WalMart

When Should My Teenager Get Their COVID-19 Vaccination?

- **NOW is the perfect time to get your young teen vaccinated against COVID-19 before they resume fall sports or return to school in August.** Here's an example why...
 - The Illinois Department of Public Health reported last week that 85 teens and adult staff at a summer youth camp held in mid-June have tested positive for COVID-19, with one unvaccinated young adult hospitalized. Although all campers and staff were eligible for vaccination, only a handful of campers and staff were actually vaccinated. The camp was not checking vaccination status and masks were not required while indoors. A couple individuals who were at the camp also attended a nearby conference, which resulted in 11 additional cases. At least 70% of those cases were unvaccinated.
 - The counties where these outbreaks occurred are very similar to Seneca County, in that only ~40% of residents were fully vaccinated.
- **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only brand approved for teens 12-17 years old. We have it available, as well as WalMart and both Fostoria and Tiffin locations of Kroger and RiteAid pharmacies.**

What's the Current State of COVID-19 in Seneca County?

- 😊 We had the 87th lowest rate of new cases in the state for the past 2 weeks! Our rate of new cases dropped from a rate of 16.3 per 100,000 (5/27-6/9/2021) to just 1.8 per 100,000 (6/17-6/30/2021). **AMAZING NEWS!**
- 😊 39.8% of Seneca residents have begun and 37.7% have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series (as of 6/30/2021). In comparison, 47.7% of Ohioans have started and 44.5% have finished their COVID-19 series.