



Reeves County
Hospital District

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Covid Vaccine is Safe and Has Been Shown to Save Lives

Those who end up in the hospital with Covid are by far those who are unvaccinated

PECOS, Texas (Jan 17, 2022) – Even in the midst of a national surge in Covid-19 infections, due mostly to the fast-growing and extremely contagious Omicron variant of the virus. Texas remains in the ‘Very High-Risk category for Covid-19 infections. Although we are now in the third year of this pandemic, there are still many individuals who are uncertain about the vaccinations against Covid-19 and unsure of the benefits the shot brings.

Since tracking for Covid-19 began, over 4000 cases have been reported in Reeves County, with a significant spike in cases since the first of the year. According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) most of those catching the virus now are unvaccinated, although there are cases of those who have received at least one dose of the vaccine becoming infected.

According to the CDC, those who have been fully vaccinated and especially those who have received a booster shot are considerably less likely to become sick or hospitalized as a result of an infection.

A “booster” shot is an extra dose of the vaccine given to “boost” vaccine effectiveness.

“Now that have begun a new year and with Omicron raging as it is, we believe it is good to reestablish how the vaccines work and why getting it is crucial to stopping the virus from spreading said Louis McIntire MD, Family Practice w/OB physician at Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, a service of Reeves County Hospital District.

“The Johnson and Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have all proven to be successful in preventing an infection or diluting any serious impact from an infection and certainly preventing a long hospitalization if any at all. Most importantly, they have shown to be quite effective at preventing death”, Dr McIntire noted

Some frequent questions or concerns about the virus include the following:

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Who Can Take the Covid-19 Vaccine and Booster?

Anyone age 5 and older can receive one shot of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine or two shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. All are shown to be very good at preventing any variant of the disease so far.

In addition, anyone 12 and older can and should receive a booster shot of either the Moderna or Pfizer 5 months after the second shot of the Pfizer and 6 months after the second shot of the Moderna. If you initially received the Johnson and Johnson version, you are eligible to receive a booster 2 months later.

How do the Covid-19 Vaccines Work?

The Vaccines do not give you the virus. COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. The vaccines make our bodies think we have been infected without actually infecting us. We therefore build up a natural immunity to the virus.

When should I get the Vaccine?

Most all individuals you should consider getting the Covid vaccine immediately to help stem the spread of the virus. Children age 5 and up are eligible for the vaccine as well. Even if you have had Covid-19, getting the vaccine can help save you from a reinfection.

Getting the vaccine may help you to stay safe and out of the hospital and it also helps to keep those around you from getting sick.

Can I get the Vaccine if I am Pregnant?

Studies have shown that women who are pregnant are more likely to get Covid-19. Getting one of the three vaccines is strongly encouraged if you are pregnant and a booster shot is encouraged as well.

There is currently no evidence that any vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccine causes infertility issues in women or men.

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Testing for Covid is offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 11am Covid-19 tests are administered in the hospital lobby. Vaccinations and booster shots are provided, free of charge, on Thursday, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Also, in the RCHD hospital lobby

Dr McIntire reminds residents that masks are required when coming the hospital for Covid vaccines or testing. In addition, He points out, “no appointments are necessary”. “The best thing you can do for yourself, your family and your community is to make every effort to stay Covid-free,” Dr McIntire added.

“We now have at our disposal some very effective techniques to prevent the spread of the virus,” concluded Dr McIntire. “All we have to do is to make sure we use them.”

To learn more about local healthcare services or to schedule an appointment at the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, please call 432-447-0565.

About Reeves County Hospital District

Reeves County Hospital District (RCHD) provides healthcare services for people in Reeves County and neighboring communities in West Texas. Founded in 1954, RCHD, a Level IV Trauma Center, offers a wide variety of medical services, including emergency care, diagnostic radiology, physical therapy, general surgery, a clinical laboratory, and more. RCHD also operates American Home Health and Hospice and the Pecos Valley Rural Health Clinic, which offers family care, immunizations, and other medical services. For more information, please visit www.reevescountyhospital.com.

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