

**SC DHEC Pee Dee COVID-19 –
Regional Community Assessment Review and Equity (CARE) Panel
Virtual Meeting: July 13th, 2021
1:00 – 2:00 PM
AGENDA**

Present:

Jim Bruckner, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region Health Director
Kelly Eaddy, SCDHEC- Pee Dee Region, Covid Operations Deputy
Amanda Heirs, SCHA Representative
Ann Lewis, CEO, CareSouth Carolina
Ruthie Odom, Director of Covid Operations, SCDHEC Pee Dee Region
Adam Parsons, Executive Director, Access Health Pee Dee
Dana Rogers, SCDHEC-Pee Dee Region, Secretary
Ashley Tallon, SCDHEC- Pee Dee Region, Lead Operations Director
John Williams, SCHA Representative

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Region Update:

- **COVID Variants:**
 - Delta Variant – first discovered in India – CDC has classified it as a “variant of concern”
 - Most dominant strain - currently accounts for 52% of cases in the U.S.
 - 60% more transmissible and doubles the risk of hospitalization ...
 - Number of confirmed cases of the “Delta” variant in SC. Slowly going up ...
 - All current vaccines are effective against the “Delta” and the other variants.

- **Positivity Rate:**
 - Is under 2.4% for last 30 days - indicates good control of the virus

- **Case Rates:**
 - To-date in S.C. we've experienced 600,027 cases / 9,956 deaths
 - Seeing a higher proportion of cases in 21 to 30 yr. old's - 17.1% - of cases
 - 21 – 60 yr. old's account for over 60% of all cases
 - We did see a slight uptick in cases after July 4th weekend
 - Several states are currently experiencing outbreaks & significant increases in cases
 - When we look at the key indicators that measure the impact of COVID on S.C., we're starting to see an upward trend in case rate/100k people – % positive test rate, & hospitalizations while the rate of tests performed continues to trend down compared to the previous 30 days.

- **Vaccination Rates:**
 - Over 2 mil. South Carolinians (49%) have received at least one dose
 - 1.8 million South Carolinians (43%) are fully vaccinated
 - Vaccine rates for Horry and Georgetown Co's are >52%

- **Disease Activity**
 - An analysis of newly reported cases, hospitalizations & deaths that occurred among individuals' whose vaccination status was known during the first two weeks of June

revealed that 94% cases, 90% of hospitalizations and 100% of deaths were among people who were not fully vaccinated.

- **Vaccine Hesitancy:**
 - A challenge to getting vaccine out – is misinformation about the vaccine
 - Some do not want to receive until approved by the FDA
 - The DHEC website contains information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines - along with educational materials.

- **Complacency is not an answer**
 - South Carolinians should continue to be aware of the threats of the pandemic
 - Continue to be vigilant about the possibility of resurgence
 - Vaccines are effective - which is why DHEC is encouraging everyone to get vaccinated.

3. Panel Discussion:

a. Anne Lewis:

- a. Just got off of the Grand Rounds with Dr. Jane Kelly, it was incredible. It has a lot of content, with the latest development and what seems to be factors that move folks into acceptance of the vaccine. Discussed the messaging we need to get behind re: the news reports around the myocardial injections, GBS, syndromes, etc. Presentation was so rich and data filled can't give the specifics, but can share the slides. Has some serious implications of what our next steps should be and how we should proceed. Not only re: Delta variant.
- b. Don't get discouraged, it's some of the most important data seen lately - kudos to Dr. Kelly.
- c. Shared a heartbreaking story of a couple that walked into the clinic, not vaccinated. Didn't see need for vaccine, walked into clinic, had O2 stat of 40, got him to the hospital and by 8pm was deceased. Completely avoidable death.

4. Future Recommendations for Submittal to DHEC:

- a. None currently

5. Next Meeting: **Tuesday, August 10th @ 1:00**

6. Adjourn