

# COVID-19 Vaccine recipients benefit by not having to quarantine

The Centers for Disease Control this week announced that those vaccinated against COVID-19, and who meet certain criteria, do not have to quarantine if exposed to someone who tests positive.

According to the CDC, vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e. more than two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose series, or more than two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within three months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all three of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with



suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Additionally, fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be tested for COVID-19.

As an exception to the above guidance no longer requiring quarantine for fully vaccinated persons, vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings should continue to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This exception is due to

the unknown vaccine effectiveness in this population, the higher risk of severe disease and death, and challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings.

CDC's healthcare infection control guidance contains additional considerations regarding the need to protect healthcare personnel, patients, and residents while also alleviating any staffing shortages.

At this time, vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

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## 1400 now vaccinated locally

**Schedule your vaccination by calling 229-352-6567**

**The daily local COVID-19 case count increase is posted on the Donalsonville News Facebook page**

As of Wednesday morning, February 17, the Seminole County Health Department has now administered 1,400 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Seminole County residents according to Penny Horne, RN, County Nurse Manager at the Seminole County Department of Health. With Phase 1A of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution ongoing, residents meeting the phase 1A requirements, healthcare workers, first responders and residents 65 years and older must have an appointment to receive the vaccination. Appointments can be made by calling 229-352-6567.

Until quantities of the vaccine are available for all citizens, local health authorities continue to implore everyone to continue with the COVID-19 safety precautions.

As of presstime on Wednesday, February 17, thirty-one positive COVID-19 PCR test cases have been reported locally so far in the month of February, with thirteen additional cases being reported in the past seven days.

Since the pandemic began last March, Seminole County has been recorded with 708 positive cases, fifteen of which, sadly, have resulted in Coronavirus related deaths. Those numbers are based on positive results from a Molecular polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

If you add in the local positive antigen test number of 180, and now two probable deaths, which the State Health Department is now reporting in its daily update, Seminole County's positive case numbers explode to 888 positive cases and 17 deaths since March of 2020.

Molecular polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and antigen tests are used to diagnose COVID-19, meaning that they look to see if someone is currently infected with COVID-19. Each test looks for something different to determine if someone is infected. A molecular (PCR) test looks for the virus's genetic material. An antigen test is a rapid test that looks for specific proteins on the surface of the virus. Where the test is processed may also differ. Molecular (PCR) tests are processed in a laboratory. Antigen tests are often

processed at the point of care, such as in a health care provider's office.

The nose swab PCR test for COVID-19 is the most accurate and reliable test for diagnosing COVID-19.

As of Wednesday, February 17, since March 2020, there have been 794,349 cases of COVID-19 statewide - out of 7,359,006 people tested - and 14,176 deaths reported to state health officials. Since this time last week, 16,300 additional Georgia residents have tested positive for COVID-19. During that same time period, the state's COVID-19 related death total increased 695.

These numbers represent confirmed cases only, defined as an individual with a positive molecular test. Only molecular test results, reported through multiple sources, are used by the Georgia Department of Health in identifying confirmed cases.

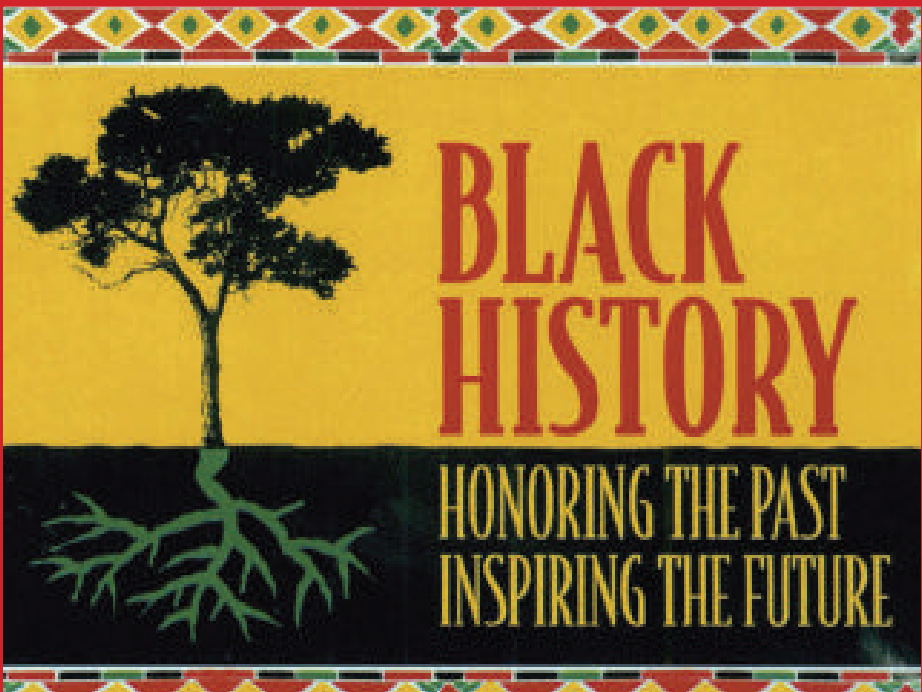
As of this week the total reported number of positive antigen test results state wide was 175,353 cases, with 1,998 probable deaths. Only antigen test results are used in identifying these cases.

The antigen test related probable death number includes individuals who were antigen positive or individuals with compatible illness and known close contact to a case that were either reported to DPH as deceased by healthcare providers or medical examiners/coroners, identified by death certificates with COVID-19 indicated as the cause of death, or there is evidence that COVID contributed to the individual's death OR individuals with a death certificate that has COVID-19 indicated as the cause of death and there is no laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2.

Local medical experts continue to implore everyone to do their part in helping to stop the spread of the virus by practicing the uniform wearing of masks, the physical distancing and the avoiding of congregate settings in crowds, particularly indoors, and get vaccinated when the vaccine becomes available to you.

The number of active, or recovered cases is not reported by the Georgia State Department of Health, and all numbers are reported under the person's county of residence.

Keep doing your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask in public, washing hands regularly, staying six feet apart smart, staying home if you are symptomatic, and taking the vaccine when it becomes available to you.



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