From: Coastal Health District
To: Matthew Kent
Subject: COVID-19 Update from the Coastal Health District
Date: Friday, January 8, 2021 6:13:30 PM

View this email in your browser

Weekly Update for 1.8.20

COVID-19 Vaccine: Overwhelming Demand; Limited Supply

Yesterday, the Coastal Health District began scheduling appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for the newly expanded phase 1a plus group, which

includes all individuals age 65+ and their caregivers.

It's been a bumpy beginning.

We're thrilled to have vaccine to offer and encouraged that so many people want to be vaccinated. This new group is large - in the Coastal Health District alone we have roughly 100,000 people in the 65+ age group. Add to that the healthcare workers and first responders, and the fact that each person must be seen again for a second dose, and it's simply more than public health can accomplish effectively in a short time span.

We are hearing from residents who are frustrated by our overwhelmed phone lines and understaffed phone banks, and we are frustrated, too. We're adding staff and phones. We've cut other services and we're working weekends. We place regular orders for the vaccine, but it’s also important to note that we don’t have an unlimited supply.

This is a monumental effort that will require a whole community response. We sincerely hope that shortly there will be a community-wide network of providers (pharmacies, private physicians, health clinics, etc.) giving vaccinations which will help tremendously. But until then, we clearly have some obstacles to overcome and we’re working to try to make the process smoother, all the while continuing to provide COVID-19 testing and other essential public health services.

Your health department is staffed by a dedicated, scrappy bunch, but we are small and the task is large. The systems will improve over time, but we ask for your patience.

Meanwhile, take care of yourself and your neighbor: please wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.

Frequently Asked Question:

What is the variant strain of COVID-19 and do we have cases in Georgia?

> Yes, there is a variant – or different – strain of COVID-19 that was first reported in the United Kingdom and has now been found in several states. There has been one case reported in Georgia so far. This strain seems to be far more contagious than the SARS-CoV2 virus but there's no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death. Knowing that there is an even more contagious strain of COVID-19 makes it even more important to take any and all precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

Free COVID-19 Testing by the Coastal Health District

All COVID-19 testing through public health in the Coastal Health District is **by appointment only.** You have two options for scheduling an appointment.

Schedule Online

- Click here to schedule a COVID-19 testing appointment online.

Schedule by Phone

- Call the COVID-19 Testing Call Center at 1-912-230-9744. The Call Center is operational Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For a list of testing locations and hours of operation, visit gachd.org/covidtest/.

Copyright © 2021 Coastal Health District, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:
Coastal Health District
400 Mall Blvd
Savannah, GA 31406-4861

Add us to your address book

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Glynn County Network E-mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.