



# DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **New wave of COVID-19 transmissions prompt personal safety considerations**

With proms, band concerts, and graduations happening, District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) asks the public to make informed decisions as they celebrate spring, youth, and achievements. The region continues to see high transmission rates with the BA.2 variant.

“Although still much lower than during the fall and winter, our hospital admission rates have also trended up, and thus the CDC Community Levels are now ‘medium’ and ‘high’ in our counties,” said Scott Izzo, DHD2 Epidemiologist/Community Health Director.

“This is a good time to remind ourselves and the community of mitigation measures that should be considered.”

CDC recommendations for areas during Medium to High Community levels are:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. If you have not had a first booster dose and are eligible, you can greatly reduce your risk of severe illness by getting a booster dose. A second booster dose, for those eligible, can further reduce the risk of infection.
- If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease, wear a well-fitting mask or respirator (KN95 or N95) while in indoor public spaces where you could be exposed, or consider avoiding those activities.
- If you have someone in your household or have other contact with someone at high risk for severe disease, consider wearing a mask while indoors with them and/or get tested before contact.
- Have a plan for rapid testing, such as having home tests on-hand or access to testing.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals and monoclonal antibodies. Treatment, if initiated soon after infection, can reduce the risk of severe disease.
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces.
- Follow recommendations for isolation and quarantine – stay home if ill, wear a mask if exposed, get tested if symptoms present or after exposure.

DHD2 continues to offer free masks, at home test kits and vaccines at its clinics. According to the CDC, people who are up to date on vaccines have much lower risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.

To schedule a vaccine appointment, call 1-800-504-2650. Visit [www.dhd2.org/covid-19](http://www.dhd2.org/covid-19) for additional information for other testing and vaccination options.