

Key Considerations for the COVID-19 Vaccine:

- Vaccines are safe and effective.
 - Although a sore arm or low-grade fever sometimes occurs after immunization, all 3 of the available vaccines reduce a person's chances of getting COVID-19 by more than 90% and of dying from it by over 99%.
 - The current vaccines continue to be effective against the delta and other new strains of the COVID-19 virus.
 - Side effects like myocarditis are much rarer in people who received the vaccine than in those who get COVID-19. (ed. 2.3% of college athletes who get COVID-19 have an episode of at least mild myocarditis.)
 - <https://www.iwatch.org/na53704/2021/06/04/covid-19-myocarditis-athletes>
- Although unusual, college students have died from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are nearly 100% effective in preventing serious illness or death.
- College students can unknowingly take COVID-19 home to their roommates, friends, and families. Some of these people may be at risk of more severe disease, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated prevents that.
- Outbreaks on campus can close down the campus and force distance learning and abandonment of extra-curricular activities.
- People living on-campus or sharing off-campus housing are particularly vulnerable to outbreaks of COVID-19 making vaccination particularly important.
- Long-COVID syndrome is real. Some young people who get COVID-19 have long-term side effects like daily fatigue, headaches, and brain fog which lasts months if not years. All of these are prevented when a person doesn't get COVID-19 at all because they were vaccinated.
- We are monitoring positive cases in our county for Variants of Concern (VOC) and we do have the Delta variant in the county which is known to be more transmissible than some of the others. The approved vaccines have been shown to decrease the chances of contracting the disease and can decrease hospitalizations if COVID-19 is contracted.
- For those who are interested in the welfare of our communities and country as a whole, COVID-19 vaccination is the best way to help us defeat the emerging variant strains and get fully back to "business as usual" (without masks and other impediments to a free and open society).