

July 6, 2021

Coyote Valley Members and Community Residents:

Over the last year, much has changed and evolved in how we manage COVID-19. Our community members' willingness to become fully vaccinated has allowed us to begin to move away from an emergency response toward a new phase of recovery. Before we can fully reach a place of normalcy, widespread vaccination is a must. Thank you to all those who are fully vaccinated! You are encouraged to discuss vaccinations with your loved ones, friends and neighbors. By sharing the reasons that you chose to get vaccinated, you are helping someone who is undecided.

Most recently, there has been concern regarding *variants* of the COVID-19 virus. Scientists are continuously studying COVID-19 and its variants. The most current studies show that the vaccines available to the public are effective on the circulating variants, including the most recent *Delta variant*. Please know that the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department keeps current on new medical research regarding COVID-19 and any variants. We know the best protection for yourself and your loved ones is to be fully vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available for anyone ages 12 years and older.

What if my child is under 12? Can he/she be vaccinated?

Currently, the vaccines available are limited to children at least 12 years of age. Certain Research Institutes are conducting COVID-19 vaccine trials for children between 6 months and 11 years of age. The HHS Department will keep you updated on any new developments regarding vaccines for children under the age of 12.

Is it worth it to get a vaccine if the variants keep emerging?

Viruses continuously change and mutate creating variants. It is expected that variants will occur and scientists continuously study the COVID-19 virus and its variants. Sometimes, variants spread faster or cause more health risks. Again, the most current medical data shows the vaccines available are effective on the circulating COVID-19 variants and the best protection for yourself and your loved ones is to be fully vaccinated.



Do I/ will I need a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated that **no additional vaccine doses are recommended at this time**. The need for additional vaccinations is under continuous evaluation. The HHS Department will keep you updated on any new developments re "boosters" for COVID-19.

Where can I get vaccinated?

- 1. Mendocino County Vaccine clinics are taking place weekly, and are available to anyone over the age of 12. The next scheduled walk-up (no appointment necessary) clinics are scheduled as follows:
 - July 9, 2021 at Ukiah Fairgrounds from 9:00 1:00 and 2:00 5:00
 - July 22, 2021 at Coyote Valley Community Center from 1:00 1:30
- 2. Consolidated Tribal Health is available for vaccine appointments. Contact (707) 485-5115 to schedule.
- 3. Walgreens, CVS, Safeway and Rite Aid offer vaccinations in Ukiah.
- 4. Stay tuned and/or sign up for CV alerts (text EZCOYOTE to 44777) to be notified of vaccine clinics on the reservation.

What if my child or I are not vaccinated?

Unvaccinated individuals of all ages will have to continue to follow masking and social distancing requirements and will have to quarantine if exposed to COVID. The risk of contracting COVID remains high, especially given the variants. In some circumstances, proof of a negative test will be required before attending certain public events (such as professional baseball games) or traveling.

We encourage you to connect with us if you have any questions about getting vaccinated or would like assistance in setting up an appointment. The HHS Department can be reached at (707) 485-8723 and healthdirector@coyotevalley-nsn.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping Coyote Valley healthy!

Sincerely,

Coyote Valley Health & Human Services