

Hello everyone,

In our community, we are starting to see a levelling out in our COVID-19 data, but the numbers are still indicative of Rockdale County being a high risk area.

Please see below vaccine and testing updates, and encourage all staff, department, family, and friends to be aware of strong hygiene and mask habits as well as the importance of getting vaccinated.

Visit the COVID dashboard [here](#) to see the latest on all the COVID stats for GA and Rockdale.

Vaccine Updates



Rockdale, Gwinnett, and Newton Health Departments are all offering additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to immunocompromised individuals. As of Monday, September 27th, these departments will also be providing Pfizer Booster shots to the below groups of individuals: (All individuals must have received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine no less than 6 months prior to the booster vaccine)

- ✓ people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings
- ✓ people aged 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions
- ✓ people aged 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions, based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- ✓ people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting, based on their individual benefits and risks.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved the Pfizer vaccine for use to mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19 in individuals 16 and older. More information can be found [here](#).

According to current data cited by Governor Kemp on 8/16, 9 in 10 COVID-19 hospitalizations are unvaccinated individuals. It is highly recommended unvaccinated individuals receive the vaccine as soon as possible in order to slow the spread and mitigate the strain on our hospital systems.

Sites for locating/booking Vaccination Appointments:

Private provider via <https://vaccinefinder.org/>
Text 'Vax' to 1-844-554-4024

Links to scheduling options are available on DPH's vaccine [website](#).

DPH hotline for individuals with questions or those that need assistance scheduling an appointment - Public Health Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line 888-457-0186. If you know of individuals that are unable to schedule online, please refer them to this call center and a representative will make an appointment for them.

All local Public Health Departments and open GNR Health Department clinic sites (Lawrenceville, Norcross, Covington, and Conyers) will be providing vaccines on a walk-in basis. These departments are also able to provide you with vaccine cards if you did not receive one during your vaccination(s).

COVID-19 Data

Rockdale is currently categorized in the **HIGH category.**

As of 09/29/2021, the Rockdale County number of 'active' cases (as determined by the DPH daily official updates through GEMA) shows us having a decrease. Over the past 14 days, we are averaging **27.9 new cases per day**. This is a **decrease** from 36.1 new cases per day last week.

Georgia has had a total of 1,573,840 [↑] (including Antigen tests) total report/tested cases and 22,354 [↑] deaths to date (09/29/2021).

Rockdale has had a total of 8,608 [↑] (10,909) (this number now contains the Antigen tests) total report/tested cases and 193 deaths to date (09/29/2021).

There have been 677 new cases in the past 21 days (9/09/21- 9/29/21). This 21-day number has **decreased** over the past 7 days. It was 814 last week.

The 14-day positivity rate for Rockdale is 13.3%. This is a **decrease from last week's 14.8%. This number needs to consistently stay below 10% for us to see long term relief.**

The 14-day case rate is 515/100K (confirmed PCR tests).

The 14-day case rate is 696/100K (PCR and Antigen tests). This number has *not been changed as of last week.*

As of 09/28/2021, Rockdale Medical Center is reporting to be operating at *high* capacity overall, with 50% of ventilators available for use and -6% of critical care beds available. RC EMA is in contact with Piedmont Rockdale and is assisting with resource requests through GEMA, when needed.

Based on current reporting for the COVID-19 vaccine, **60.9% of eligible Rockdale County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. 54.0% of eligible Rockdale County residents are fully vaccinated. This number has *slowly increased over the last six weeks.***

Since its opening on August 25, 2021, the Springfield Baptist Drive Thru Testing Site has tested 3,319 individuals.

Please make your staff, department, family, and friends aware that now is not the time to become complacent in our efforts to combat this virus. As schools, businesses and churches continue efforts to reopen completely, it will be very easy to fall out of our good hygiene habits used to combat COVID. Keep up the efforts and get vaccinated!

Other Information and New Updates:

The Springfield Baptist Church drive-thru COVID-19 testing site is operational from 9am to 5pm, Tuesday to Friday and every other Saturday. If you feel you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19, are not feeling well, or simply need a COVID test for another reason, please register below:

<https://mako.exchange/scheduler/registration/?location=5991>

According to new data cited by Governor Kemp on 8/16, 9 in 10 COVID-19 hospitalizations are unvaccinated individuals. It is highly recommended unvaccinated individuals receive the vaccine as soon as possible in order to slow the spread and mitigate the strain on our hospital systems.

School Guidance: Per the Governor's office, there will be no GA specific school guidance. School partners are to refer to current CDC guidance. We continue to recommend layered prevention strategies, including immunizations, to limit transmission and overall impact.

Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you