Greetings Rockdale Family,

We hope everyone is staying safe this holiday season. Please review information below for updates on Covid-19 and other information in our community.

**Summary of Updates**

- County Overview: Covid-19 area category - Moderate
  a. Site Location and vaccine appointments
  b. Vaccines available for 5–11-year old’s
- Covid-19 Updates
- Other information and new updates
  a. Omicron Covid-19 Variant
  b. Springfield Baptist Church drive-thru COVID-19 testing site

**Rockdale County Covid-19 Overview**

As of late Covid-19 numbers are still indicative of Rockdale County being a moderate area per Georgia Department of Public Health and substantial area per CDC.

Please see below for 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. As a reminder, here are a few ways you can protect yourself and your family:

- Get Vaccinated!
- In areas of high and substantial transmission, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask indoors!
- Remember to stay 6 feet away from people and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated areas!

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

Please follow the mask and distance guidelines throughout the holiday season when visiting with friends and family. We do not want another increase in our numbers!!!

**Sites for locating/booking Vaccination Appointments:**

Private provider via [https://vaccinefinder.org/](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).

**Reminder: the vaccine is available for 5–11-year old’s**

You can **Walk in or schedule an appointment** at a public or private site throughout GA. Vaccine is available with no appointment at all GNR mass vaccination sites and open GNR Health Department clinic sites (Lawrenceville, Norcross, Covington, and Conyers). Vaccines for 5–11-year-olds continue to be available at GNR health centers only.

**COVID-19 Data**

Rockdale is currently categorized in the **moderate transmission** category. This is one step below High.

Rockdale has had a total of **11,768** (this number now contains the Antigen tests) total report/tested cases and **248** deaths to date (12/07/2021).

The 7-day positivity rate for Rockdale is **5.5%** (There is a slight increase)
The 14-day positivity rate for Rockdale is **4.6%**. There is a slight increase from last week’s **4.5%**. This number needs to consistently stay below 10% for us to see long term relief.

The 14-day case rate is **123/100K** (confirmed PCR tests). (Starting to move up slightly) The 14-day case rate is **148/100K** (PCR and Antigen tests). This number is way down from last week!!!

As of **11/30/2021**, Rockdale Medical Center is reporting to be operating at **moderately high** capacity overall with 50% capacity of ventilators available.

**Based on current reporting for the COVID-19 vaccine:**

55% of the eligible population in Rockdale has at least one dose.
50% of the eligible population in Rockdale is fully vaccinated.
(These numbers now include those 5 years of age and older as eligible)

Vaccinations by age groups: (at least one dose) As of **12/02/21**
(Percent shown is the percentage of all residents in that age group)
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 Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has confirmed the first case of COVID-19 caused by the Omicron variant in Georgia. The individual recently traveled from South Africa and developed mild symptoms and subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is isolating at home and contact tracing is underway to identify close contacts at risk of infection. This is the first identified in-state case of Omicron. DPH was notified Dec. 3 of a Georgia resident currently in New Jersey who tested positive for the Omicron variant.

Despite the detection of this new variant, Delta remains the dominant variant and represents more than 99% of circulating strains.

All Georgians over the age of 5 are now eligible for COVID vaccination.

Booster doses of vaccine are recommended for adults 18 and older who completed their first series of vaccine at least six months ago.

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

Thank you