

Boone Health Update

Boone County Medical Society

October 5, 2021

Summer Surge 2021

- Boone Health and all Missouri health systems experienced a significant surge of Covid cases beginning in June.
- Large surge in southwest Missouri with the delta variant running rampant through a largely unvaccinated population.
- Many counties with less than 20% vaccination rates in the southern corners of the state and all along the Missouri-Arkansas border.
- We initially saw the Joplin, Springfield and Lake Regional hospitals overwhelmed, followed by rapid spread to the metropolitan areas and central Missouri.

Intensive Care and Staffing Crisis

- Missouri ICUs quickly filled up with Covid patients
- Significant issues with bed capacity due to staffing shortages, a result of nationwide healthcare worker shortages related to Covid through 2020
- Employees out for Covid-related reasons reached 35 & added to staffing issues
- Boone Health and all central Missouri hospitals struggled to provide care with increased demand
- We denied ICU transfer requests nearly daily through July, August and September
 - Sometimes as many as 15 per day
- We had to transfer patients out, sometimes to other states
- We accepted two patients from Oklahoma with no closer ICU beds available (one from TX border)

Surge Data

- Maximum number of Covid inpatients reached 38 in August, last November up to 65
- Maximum in ICU was 18 (32 bed ICU)
- Maximum on ventilators was 7
- Not all were unvaccinated, but most were not
- Even some vaccinated have died or required mechanical ventilation
- Most unvaccinated inpatients are younger than first surge, youngest death was 28
- Most vaccinated inpatients were older and with comorbidities
- More pregnant patients who required early delivery, and mothers intubated or on high flow oxygen

Current Status

Inpatient numbers down to 10-15 in the past few weeks, with 5-6 in ICU, 2-3 on ventilators.

All Boone County Hospitals Total COVID Inpatients/ICU/Ventilators			
Date	Inpatients	ICU	Ventilators
06/21	48	18	6
07/20	91	35	15
08/09	119	28	14
08/17	127	35	11
08/24	129	37	11
09/03	118	38	14
09/13	103	28	11
09/29	65	15	13

Boone Hospital Total COVID Inpatients/ICU/Ventilators			
Date	Inpatients	ICU	Ventilators
06/21	13	5	1
07/20	21	10	6
08/09	33	11	5
08/17	32	14	5
08/24	33	18	2
09/03	35	13	7
09/13	21	7	3
09/29	10	2	2

Why the Surge?

Vaccinations in Missouri by Age	
Age Range	Partial/Full Percentage
12-17	40.8/34.8
18-24	46.6/39
25-34	50.8/43.6
35-44	60.5/53
45-54	62.8/55.8
55-64	70.8/64
65-74	85.5/79.5
75-84	86.7/80.3
85+	79.9/72.8
Combined Age Groups	53.6/47.6

Surrounding Counties and Boone County Vaccination Rates Partial/Full	
County	Partial/Full Percentage
Boone	56.6/51.1
Cole	49.8/45.5
Callaway	45/41
Randolph	37.7/31.9
Howard	43.5/38.8
Cooper	40.8/36.6

There are still 32 counties in Missouri with less than 30% of their population fully vaccinated.

What is new at Boone?

- Boone Health did not choose to formally mandate the Covid vaccination for employees
- We started an incentive program that included ALL vaccinated employees
- Our deadline for full vaccination is 11/01/21. After that date, unvaccinated employees must have weekly testing
- All this changed with the Federal mandate
- We are continuing with our vaccination push and awaiting guidance from the Federal government on exemptions, timeline, testing requirements, etc.
- We will follow the mandated processes

Boosters!!!

- The much-anticipated green light for Pfizer third dose boosters was approved 9/24 for healthcare workers
- Boone started vaccination clinics the week of 9/27
- Over 400 boosters given in first two days
- Appointments filling rapidly
- Will have employee clinics several days a week until need fulfilled
- Vaccine also available by appointment in our outpatient clinics
- Referring public to our outpatient clinics or local pharmacies
- We are asking for attestation of approved booster criteria

Questions?