

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

The FDA has cleared Moderna and Pfizer for 12 to 18 year olds. School will be starting up in August and it is so important that our children be vaccinated. Don't put it off. As parents and grandparents, you should have your children vaccinated and encourage your adult children to get this shot. I have mentioned that months ago my granddaughter had COVID and she is still suffering from symptoms. A friend's grandson was hospitalized and almost died after a terrible bout with COVID. Youth does not exempt anyone. COVID can have no symptoms or quickly accelerate to a deadly status in any age. The companies are working on FDA approval of a vaccine for kids under 12. Remember, all these shots are FREE. You should make sure your young ones are protected. The first vaccines were developed over 200 years ago. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox and polio in the US just to name two big ones. The science is now clear on COVID and vaccines. The vaccine is working! I write this column from my heart. I have said it before, I am so concerned about Atascosa County's vaccination rate for COVID.

Atascosa County has one of the lowest vaccination percentages of counties our size. Initially, our turnout was great and I feel most of the high-risk persons have been vaccinated. But, if we want to defeat this disease, we need to increase our numbers substantially. For anyone who has just been putting it off, I want you to know I understand. No one really wants to be inoculated, I don't like needles, but mine went fine. So, don't be afraid and please go to one of the several clinics or drugstores giving the shots. I can tell you it is actually quite liberating. The worry of catching COVID is gone. This disease is still out there and is still dangerous. Our confirmed positives are still high. So, to be approaching countywide safety, we need another 30% to get the shot. By October there will be a booster and I plan to get it.

Thank you for listening. I pray that God will bless Atascosa County and all its citizens.