

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

This column is from my heart. I am so concerned about Atascosa County's vaccination rate for COVID that I want to write about it this week.

We are in the lowest tiers of counties our size and up for the percentage of vaccination. We have had great initial turnout and I feel most of the high-risk persons have been vaccinated. To defeat this disease, we need to increase our numbers substantially. For those adults who have just been putting it off, I want you to know I understand. I dreaded getting my inoculation, I don't like needles, but it all went fine. So, don't be afraid and please go to one of the several clinics or drugstores giving the shots. It is also liberating. I can testify to that personally. The worry 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.

The FDA has cleared Moderna and Pfizer for the 12-to-18-year category. As parents and grandparents, you should encourage your kids to get this shot. My granddaughter had COVID several months ago and she is still suffering from symptoms. A friend's grandson just got out of the hospital for a terrible bout with COVID, and he nearly died. Youth does not exempt anyone. COVID can have no symptoms or quickly accelerate to a deadly status in any age. School will be starting up in August and it is so important that our kids be vaccinated. Don't put it off. The companies are working on FDA approval of a vaccine for those 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 vaccine. The vaccine is working!

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