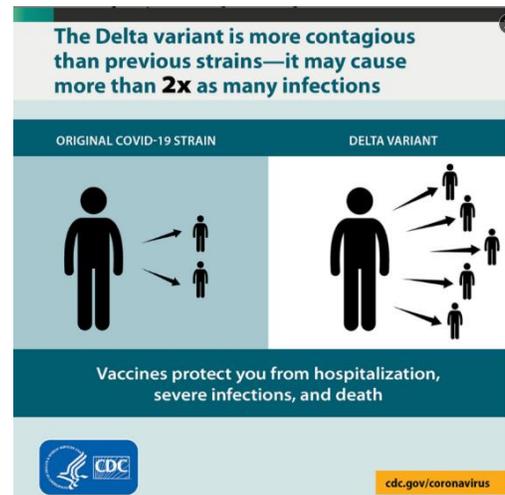


Six Things to know about the Delta Variant

1. Delta is more contagious than the other virus strains.

The Delta variant became the most common virus strain late last year in India. The CDC has labeled the Delta variant as a “variant of concern” because of its ability to spread quickly from one person to another. Public health experts estimate that the average person who gets infected with Delta spreads it to three or four other people, as compared with one or two other people through the original coronavirus strain. Currently most people, over 90%, that are sick with COVID in Wisconsin and Lincoln County have the Delta Variant strain.



2. Unvaccinated people are at risk.

People who have not been fully vaccinated against [COVID-19](#) are most at risk. As of August 24, 2021, Lincoln County COVID 19 vaccination rate is at 45% with the rate among the younger population much lower. Since July 1, 2021, 70% of our COVID 19 cases in Lincoln are among those unvaccinated.

3. More Contagious, More Outbreaks, Lead to Closures

With a low vaccine rate in a community and a variant that is highly contagious we will see more disease spread in situations such as households, worksites and schools. This can overwhelm health care systems in rural areas such as Lincoln County, as well as increase the number of closures do to not enough employees/students to function as a worksite or school.

4. Severe Illness among unvaccinated

Infection with the Delta variant may be more likely to lead to severe illness. Studies from Canada and Scotland found that people infected with the variant are more likely to be hospitalized, while research in Singapore indicated that they are more likely to require oxygen.

5. Vaccination is the best protection against Delta.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself from Delta is to get fully vaccinated. At this point, that means you need to get the two-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

6. Layer of Protection Strongly Recommended.

Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies are essential for everyone in our community. This includes wearing face covering, avoiding large crowds, good hygiene, staying home when sick and vaccination.