

Good Evening this is Angela Kramer Public Health Nurse for the Board of Health with our weekly COVID-19 update. From August 9 to August 16 we had 37 positive COVID-19 cases. The town remains at 57% fully vaccinated residents. Our goal is to increase this by the end of the summer to protect our families and school age children as they return to school. The COVID-19 Vaccine is very safe and effective and helps to reduce the spread of the virus as well as anyone experiencing the severity of symptoms from the virus. Anyone ages 12-17 can only get the Pfizer vaccine. If you have any questions or concerns speak to your pediatrician for advice. Anyone age 18 and older can receive any vaccine. All vaccines are free of charge. For anyone homebound you can contact the Department of Public Health In Home Vaccination Program at (833)983-0485 to schedule an appointment.

The Department of Public Health is reviewing the recommendation of the third dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine for some individuals with compromised immune systems which includes:

- Active Cancer Treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Organ transplant patients receiving medicine to suppress the immune system
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or drugs that may suppress your immune system

Anyone with questions about whether a third dose of vaccine is recommended for them is asked to contact their medical provider to discuss these recommendations

The CDC has a link for these Interim Clinical Considerations. Further information and guidance will be issued soon by the Department of Public Health.

On July 30 DPH issued a mask advisory that is in effect. The Board of Health strongly recommends any individuals going into a public building to wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. Also is it highly suggested that if you are experiencing symptoms to seek testing to ensure it is not the COVID-19 virus. We are seeing many cases of individuals both vaccinated and unvaccinated that thought it was a common cold and are testing positive.

Please continue to reach out to the Board of Health with any questions or concerns at (413)583-5600 ext1272 Thank you and have a good night.