

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**CITY COUNCIL BRIEFING BY UF HEALTH JACKSONVILLE**

**COVID-19-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Remote meeting via teleconference**

 **July 23, 2021**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Remote meeting via teleconference

**In attendance:** Council Members Terrance Freeman, Brenda Priestly Jackson, Sam Newby, Joyce Morgan

Jennifer Bradley, Gibson, tracey davis,

Tim koss school president

Marco rubios office

Charlie Cofer, Rep. Duggins

**Also**: Dr. Leon Haley and Senator Aaron Bean - UF Health Jacksonville;

Mayor Charlie Latham – Jacksonville Beach; Mayor Ellen Glasser – Atlantic Beach; Mayor Elaine Brown – Neptune Beach; **State Senator Audrey Gibson**; State Representative Cord Byrd and Clay Yarborough; **School Board Member Lori Hershey; Dr. Diana Green – School Superintendent**; Mike Bruno – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; **Richard Distel – Council Research Division**

**Meeting Convened**: 2:01 p.m.

Sen. Aaron Bean moderated and opened the call thanking participants for joining and introduced Dr. Haley.

Dr. Haley said that the numbers in the hospitals are frightening. Dr. Haley said there has been a rise in cases across the United States and in Northeast Florida the lagging vaccination rates have contributed to the rise in cases. Dr. Haley said that on

Northeast Florida has had lagging vaccination rates which is contributing to high covid numbers.

June 18th there were 12 patients with covid-19 and today there are 150 patients.

This surge has been incredibly stressful on hospital staff and all other hospitals are seeing the same kind of number spike. There are 753 hospitalizations covering all hospitals. Dr. Haley said that the vast majority is being transmitted through the delta variant which is more contagious and equally deadly.

Dr. Haley said they are seeing a lot of vaccine hesitancy with just 56% having at least one and 49% having both doses. Mr. Haley said that 50 to 60 percent of staff are vaccinated and he talked to the staff about their concerns. Dr. Haley said he went around to vaccinate people in real time. Dr. Haley said that there needs to be vaccination rates in the 80% range for herd immunity.

Dr. Haley said that he has talked to the mayor about education and vaccine hesitancy. Dr. Haley said that the general hospital operations have been impacted and the volume is so large that they are rescheduling if multiple days are needed for a hospital visit. The hospital has eliminated visitation in the covid-19 population.

Dr. Haley said that the numbers are going straight up with no curve. The vaccines are working against this variant, but vaccinations are important because of the possibility of another variant after delta. Dr. Haley also stressed to get your flu shot when that becomes available. The booster shots are not needed currently, and the focus is still on getting the first set of people getting vaccinated.

Dr. Haley said that there is a possibility that kids under 12 will be able to be vaccinated in the fall, but not sure yet. The numbers are continuing to climb in the region, and the focus is on getting people vaccinated and educated. Dr. Haley talked about other projects the hospital is doing outside of the covid-19 work.

Dr. Haley said that getting covid-19 does not protect as much as the vaccine which gives more cover. He said that masks are not mandated, but completely appropriate when inside with other people that you are unaware of their vaccine status.

Chad Neilsen, Infection Prevention UF Health, said that the line wrapped around block for people getting tested for covid-19. He said they do not see a slowdown yet and it will take many weeks for any impact in the hospital number. He stressed not only getting vaccinated, but to wear a mask until vaccinated.

Questions & Answers

Senator Bean moderated questions and answers.

Senator Bean asked what are the numbers of people that are hospitalized who are unvaccinated?

Dr. Haley said that 88-90% are unvaccinated, 5% partially vaccinated, and 5% are fully vaccinated. Dr. Haley said that of those that are fully vaccinated in the hospital a lot are on immune suppressive drugs or having a comorbidity.

Dr. Bill Amos asked about the danger currently of the unvaccinated. Mr. Neilsen said there is a 20 year drop on the average age of the patient. Lori Hershey asked for any insight of the numbers in hospitalizations which are connected to children. Dr. Haley said that three children under 18 have been hospitalized. Dr. Haley said there is a good reason to have masks for kids since they are unvaccinated.

Joyce Morgan asked how she can help educate and get this information out. Dr. Haley wants people to know covid-19 is not over and that the patients are becoming younger and younger and just as sick and dying quickly.

Senator Audrey Gibson said that there is a lot of apartment complexes with a younger population which would be beneficial to focus on in terms of education and vaccinations. Senator Gibson said there should be mobile units in the zip codes which are most heavily impacted with covid-19. Dr. Haley said they will do anything possible to cover areas with education and outreach to vaccinate the younger population

Representative Wyman Duggan asked about the kind of palliative care people are receiving. Dr. Haley said that several people are on ventilators, oxygen, using steroids, and ECMO machines for their care at the hospitals Dr. Haley stressed the urgency of this spike again.

The next call will be on August 5th at 10:00am

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:46 p.m.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research Division

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7.30.21 Posted 5:00 p.m.