

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE

Issued Thursday, August 12, 2021

This is a Joint Public Health Notification from Elbowoods Memorial Health Center, Emergency Operations Center, and Covid-19 Task Force

MHA Nation is currently experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases threatening unvaccinated adults and children. As of today, August 12, 2021, a total of 23 active positive cases are reported on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. It is an alarming increase of cases since the beginning of August as compared to 0 cases in July 2021.

Demographics of the active cases shown below:

- Of the 23 positive individuals, 22 were unvaccinated. 1 individual is a break-through infection.

These active cases are in the North (New Town), West (Mandaree), South (Twin Buttes), and Northeast (Parshall) Segments currently.

By Age:

- **17 Years of Age and Younger** – 8 cases
- **18-40 Years** – 6 cases
- **41-59 Years** - 6 cases
- **60 Years of Age and Older** - 3 cases

The current active cases show that there is a concerning rise in infection showing in the youth population group. They account for 8 out of the 23 active cases or 35%, and are at high risk of contracting COVID-19 in the near future due to the increased number of large social gatherings, travelling to high-transmission areas, and school reopening soon.

We strongly recommend everyone eligible for the vaccine that are ages 12 and older register for their Covid-19 Vaccines. COVID-19 is still present in our area, including the highly infectious Delta Variant, and a threat to the health and safety of the public, especially our youth. In addition, everyone is encouraged to seek regular Covid-19 rapid testing even after being vaccinated. While it is very rare, fully vaccinated individuals can still be carriers of the SARS-CoV-2 Virus and spread it to others.

Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals should continue to:

Take precautions in public settings by continuing to wear a well-fitted mask and outdoor crowded spaces, practicing frequent hand washing/hand sanitizing, disinfecting work and living areas daily, and getting tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>