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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update - August 5, 2021

Vigilance Encouraged as COVID-19 Cases Increase in Bexar County

COVID-19 cases are increasing in Bexar County, largely due to the new Delta variant. All residents are encouraged to practice vigilance and take precautions to protect themselves and their families during this latest surge.

Thank you to all Helotes residents who have received the COVID-19 vaccine. The health community agrees that full vaccination is the best defense against serious illness, including hospitalization from the virus. While the vaccine cannot guarantee 100 percent immunity, vaccines do minimize overall risk and lessen the severity of COVID-19.

In Helotes, we recognize and respect the right of everyone to choose whether to get vaccinated. Individuals should evaluate personal risk factors and that of their household when considering steps to mitigate illness.

There are currently no state or county mandates in place regarding closures or masks. The City of Helotes does not have intentions of imposing any such mandates, rather, we encourage all residents to seek vaccinations and take preventative measures to protect our community. COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available free of charge at clinics across Bexar County. Call the San Antonio COVID-19 Hotline for more information regarding vaccine sites at 210-207-6000 or email covid-19@sanantonio.gov.

Wearing face masks when in public places, for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, is a tool recommended by health professionals that can help minimize the spread of the virus. For more information about current recommendations to help slow the spread, visit the <u>CDC</u> and <u>COVID-19 San Antonio</u> (SA Metro Health) websites.