

## COVID-19 Pandemic - Weekly Data and Comments

### Fort Bend County Data (Current as of 03/16/2021)

Total Confirmed Cases	53,258
Deaths in FBC	539
Fatality Rate	1.01
Testing % Positive Rate* (03/13/2021)	9%

### SETRAC / FBC Hospital Data (Current as of 03/16/2021)

FBC General Bed Usage	52
FBC ICU Bed Usage	21
% FBC ICU bed occupied by COVID+ Pts	18.8%

### TMC Data (Current as of 03/16/2021)

Effective Reproduction Rate R(t)**	1.03
Testing % Positive Rate	5.4
% TMC ICU beds occupied by COVID+ Pts	16%
TMC ICU Capacity (non-pandemic, Phase 1)	100%
TMC ICU Capacity (combined, Phase 1&2)	79%

### Notes

\*Goal is to sustain a rate of <5% for at least 14 days

\*\*R(t) >1: indicates increasing viral transmission

R(t) <1: indicates viral transmission is slowing down

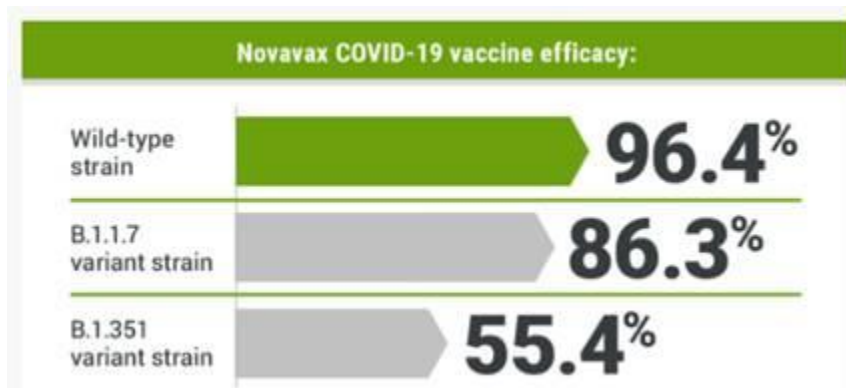
## Assessment/Comments

1. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations appear to be declining, both statewide and locally.
2. Current concerns:
  - Four of the COVID-19 variant strains/mutations have already been identified in the Houston area
  - Many schools are on spring break right now, and we really won't know the impact with respect to COVID-19 cases for about 2-4 weeks from now
3. Currently, we have 3 vaccines approved to provide protection from SARS-CoV-2, and more than likely the variants
4. We have been told by the current administration that there should be enough vaccine available for every adult American wanting to be vaccinated by the end of May 2021
5. Our goal is to reach a minimum herd immunity of 70%. Currently 11.6% of Texas have received at least 1 dose of vaccine. Until then, we should continue with the same negation strategies and precautions that have been shown to have slowed the spread of the original virus-the 3W's (**W**ashing hands, **W**earing a properly fitted mask, **W**atching physical distancing)

## Vaccination Updates:

### 1. Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine(NVX-CoV2373)

Final analysis of Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine showed 96% efficacy against wild type SARS-CoV-2 in the UK in phase 3 trial. In South Africa the vaccine was 55.4% efficacious where the majority of cases are cause by the variant B.1.351. However, in both trials the vaccine was 100% protective against severe disease including hospitalization and death. Vaccine-induced protection began 14 days after the initial dose (42.7%; 95% CI, 25-56) and increased efficacy occurred 7 days after the second dose. So, good news for Novavax.



### 2. AstraZeneca Vaccine

Several countries have suspended use of the AstraZeneca vaccine due to concerns over blood clots(DVT and PE). The European Medicines Agency and others are investigating if there is evidence of a link. To date 30 cases of blood clots have been reported in nearly 5 million people who have been vaccinated a rate no higher than the general population. Not so good news for AstraZeneca.

## CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel (HCP) During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic - updated February 23, 2021

HCP should use PPE as described below:

- N95 respirators or equivalent or higher-level respirators should be used for
  - All aerosol-generating procedures AND
  - All surgical procedures that might pose higher risk for transmission if the patient has COVID-19 (e.g., that generate potentially infectious aerosols or involving anatomic regions where viral loads might be higher, such as the nose and throat, oropharynx, respiratory tract)
- One of the following should be worn by HCP for source control while in the facility and for protection during patient care encounters:
  - An N95 respirator OR
  - A respirator approved under standards used in other countries that are similar to NIOSH-approved N95 filtering face piece respirators OR
  - A well-fitting facemask (e.g., selection of a facemask with a nose wire to help the facemask conform to the face; selection of a facemask with ties rather than ear loops; use of a mask fitter; tying the facemask's ear loops and tucking in the side pleats; fastening the facemask's ear loops behind the wearer's head ; use of a cloth mask over the facemask to help it conform to the wearer's face.
    - If implementing new strategies or equipment to improve fit, HCP should receive training on how to safely don and doff their facemask and on the facility protocol for cleaning and disinfecting any reusable equipment (e.g., fitter). HCP should also ensure that any new strategies or equipment do not impede their vision or ability to breathe.
- Eye protection should be worn during patient care encounters to ensure the eyes are also protected from exposure to respiratory secretions.

### 3 ft. (instead of 6 ft) Social Distancing Safe for Schools?

CDC currently looking at the possibility for schools to go to a 3 ft physical distancing recommendation. This is based on a current study from *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 10 March 2021. Study showed no significant difference in case rates among schools that implemented a 3-foot distancing rule vs. schools that implemented a 6-foot rule. Conclusion of the study was that lower physical distancing policies can be adopted in school settings with universal masking without negatively impacting student or staff safety