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Fayette County Health Department

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Welcome to Fayette County!

To best inform our visitors, we are asking that you consider the potential risks you might experience during your visit. We are at a tenuous time in public health in Fayette County. Due to the increased transmissibility surge of the delta variant, we are seeing a rapid rate of rise in incidence of COVID-19. This is the sharpest increase in cases that we have experienced thus far. We have received 145 cases in the last 7 days, 33 just today, demonstrating HIGH transmission in our community.

We are also seeing an increase demand for hospitalization. WV currently has over 500 COVID-19 hospitalizations, predominately unvaccinated. We are seeing significant staffing shortages in WV. Our overall staffed beds are not available, regardless of COVID status. This is happening locally as well. Patients are being held in Emergency Room for days. EMS wait times are longer and transports are further away, pulling local first responders from their coverage areas. Routine and specialty services are not immediately available due to shortages. If you have a non-COVID related injury, there is a chance that we do not have capacity currently to care for you or your family member.

If you are still inclined to visit, we are asking that you do your part to help keep our community safe and healthy. To help reduce the stress on healthcare systems locally, we recommend the following actions prior to arrival:

- 1) Get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least 2 weeks prior to arrival
- 2) Reduce capacity at in-person events
- 3) Stay within your travel group
- 4) Respect social distancing of 6 feet or more
- 5) Wear a mask indoors and in crowded areas
- 6) Practice good handwashing and hand hygiene
- 7) Choose well ventilated spaces (outdoors over indoors)
- 8) Stay home if any (even mild) symptoms are present and getting tested for COVID-19
- 9) Have a negative test 72 hours prior to arrival
- 10) Follow the guidance for isolation and quarantine as directed by local public health.

Again, we are at a critical juncture. Please consider your personal risks in travel and consider the potential impact you make on our local community.

Respectfully,

Anita R. Stewart DO
Health Officer/Fayette County Health Department