



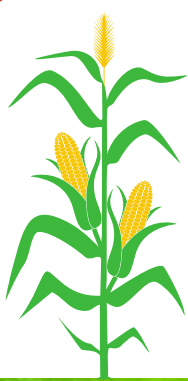
AUGUST 5TH, 2021

**CARRIE'S
COVID Q&A**
Source: USA Today

Question:

If I've been fully-vaccinated, do I need to start wearing a mask when in public spaces once again?

Answer: Health experts studying the Delta variant are now recommending that all individuals wear masks when in public indoor spaces in communities where transmission levels are high. Unfortunately, Milwaukee and the surrounding counties are all currently experiencing high transmission. High transmission means that there are a rising number of new cases (100 or more per 100,000 people in the past 7 days) and that the percentage of positive tests is at or above 10%.



Advice From the Experts

New Guidance for the Vaccinated

WHEN SHOULD I WEAR A MASK?

Milwaukee County is a RED zone right now according to the CDC's Covid Data Tracker. This means we still have high levels of infection. CDC advises people to wear masks if they live in an orange or red zone. Consider the case counts in your area, and the amount of vaccinated people in your community. It's still risky to attend a packed outdoor event, but if you do, wear a mask.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE THE DELTA VARIANT?

If you're diagnosed in the U.S. with Covid-19, the odds are overwhelming that you have the Delta variant. The C.D.C. now estimates that Delta accounts for more than 82 percent of cases in the United States. Standard Covid tests won't tell you if your infection was caused by the Delta variant or another variant of the virus.

IF I'M VACCINATED, WHY DO I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT DELTA?

No vaccine offers 100 percent protection. "Vaccinations give you that extra protection you wouldn't normally have," Dr. Bromage said. "But when you hit a big challenge, like getting near an unvaccinated person who has a high viral load, that wall is not always going to hold." The good news is the current crop of vaccines available in the United States are doing a remarkable job of protecting people from serious illness, hospitalization and death. More than 97 percent of those hospitalized with Covid-19 are unvaccinated.

WHAT'S THE RISK OF HANGING OUT WITH MY VACCINATED FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

Vaccinated people are at very low risk when they spend time, unmasked, with their vaccinated friends and family members. "I don't think mask-wearing is critical," Dr. Huffman said. "If you are indoors with a small number of people you know are vaccinated, wearing a mask is low on my list of worries." While it's unusual for a vaccinated person to spread the virus to another vaccinated person, it's possible. A vaccinated friend who is going to crowded bars, packed concerts or traveling to a Covid hot spot is a bigger risk than someone who avoids crowds and spends most of their time with vaccinated people.

“The more people you put yourself in contact with, the more risk you have, but it also depends on the local climate of risk,” Dr. Gonsalves said. “Soon we’ll probably see a Lollapalooza outbreak. All these people crushed together is an ideal situation for the spread of Delta.”

Excerpts from Sandra Akerman's book, "Milwaukee Then and Now"

It has been estimated that there were about 36,000 Native Americans in Wisconsin in 1660. This represented the most important center of Native Indian population in what was known as the West. The first white men to visit the area were traders and missionaries. The Native Americans traded their beaver pelts for muskets, beads, blankets, textiles, and other goods. Milwaukee became a thriving trading center.

In 1835 Solomon Juneau, George Walker, and Byron Kilbourn, each bought 160 acres when land went up for sale. Then they established their villages, Juneautown, Kilbourntown, and Walker's Point. Milwaukee's population at that time was only 125. In 1846 when the three villages incorporated, the population was 9,500. Many of the early settlers were Yankees from New York and New England. They were young, educated, and seeking new opportunities. Many of the new arrivals were interested in farming and were passing through Milwaukee on their way to the farming frontier.

TODAY'S LITTLE CHUCKLE

Q: Why do elephants have trunks?

A: *Because they would look silly with suitcases!*

