

An Open Letter to Our Fellow Bell County Residents

Greetings fellow Bell County residents.

Our hospitals have been full and working to capacity. The hospitals have had to stop 'elective surgeries' and other non-critical care appointments. Our health care workers are exhausted. We have asked the State for help in staffing our hospitals. Overall health care services in Bell County are stressed. Why ? Because COVID19 patients have filled the beds. Beds that would otherwise be available for those in need of hospitalization ... like someone who has had a stroke, or a heart attack, or in a car accident.

While both these circumstances are tragic in and of themselves, one of them is almost entirely preventable...that being a bed that is taken by a COVID19 patient. According to our largest health care provider in the county, 93% of hospitalized COVID19 patients are unvaccinated. 96% of the COVID19 patients that are in the ICU are unvaccinated. 97% of the COVID19 patients that are ventilators are unvaccinated. And, finally, of that 3 to 6 percent of COVID19 patients that are in the hospital that are vaccinated, 100% have some other underlying health issues.

This data isn't from the CDC or from the State. It's data from Bell County hospitals. It's from your family, your friends, your neighbors.

What the data demonstrates isn't debatable and can't be denied. If you get vaccinated, your chances of going to the hospital because of COVID19 are significantly, substantially reduced. And, you don't take up a bed that your family member or friend or neighbor might need for a stroke, or a heart attack, or an unforeseen accident.

Please go get vaccinated.

And one other thing. Vaccinated or not, please follow the advice of your physician about how to mitigate the spread of COVID19. Our local health care providers continue to recommend that we social distance whenever and wherever we can...and when we can't, they recommend you wear your face covering. They also continue to recommend that you continue to be vigilant in your personal hygiene practices, like frequently washing your hands. These simple recommendations can go a long way toward protecting those who aren't vaccinated and in mitigating the spread of COVID19.

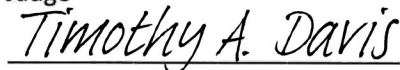
It's going to take all of us working together to beat COVID19. Let's do it.



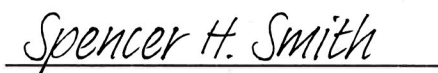
D. Blackburn, County Judge



Jose Segarra, Mayor, City of Killeen



Timothy Davis, Mayor, City of Temple



Spencer Smith, Mayor, City of Harker Heights



Wayne Carpenter, Mayor, City of Belton