



## Community Talking Points

Oct. 5, 2020

- COVID-19 continues to spread in Wood County, and more people are testing positive.
  - Wood County has the fifth-highest incidence rate in the state over the last two weeks at 189.6 new cases per 100,000 residents.
  - Wood County's rate 2 weeks ago was 104 new cases per 100,000. This means that there are more COVID-19 cases in the community in general.
  - This is concerning because it could cause a jump in cases, which could lead to an increased burden on health care resources from people needing medical treatment.
  - The CDC considers rates over 100 as high incidence. This means people in the community are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19.
  
- In Wood County, like many areas across the country, there is an increase of cases in young adults and children.
  - 47% of cases in the last 2 weeks were in people aged 20-29, and 27% were in people aged 0-19.
  - While the risk of serious illness in young adults and children is lower than in older adults, people should still be concerned about preventing spread in this population.
    - Children and young adults with underlying health conditions such as asthma, obesity or diabetes are at risk for seriously complications from COVID.
  - Younger people may not realize they are infected because their symptoms are mild or not apparent. This means they could spread the virus to parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and other older adults without knowing it.
  
- This data helps us get a picture of the current risk to the community and helps us see trends to have an idea of what's coming next.
  - The change in both the incidence rate and average age of new cases means we need to remind children and young adults about what they can do to reduce the spread of the virus.
  - It's important to maintain distance, wear a mask, wash hands and stay home if you're sick, even if you think it's just a cold.
    - Wearing a mask is important even if you're 6 feet apart, and vice versa.
  - Gathering with other people increases the risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19.

- If numbers increase, limiting your activities can reduce your risk, and is especially important if you're at greater risk for severe illness. This includes older adults and people with conditions like:
  - Cancer
  - Type 2 diabetes
  - Obesity
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - A weakened immune system from organ transplant
  - Serious heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
  - Sickle cell disease