

December 29, 2020

Mask Mandate Extended Until February 27, 2021/Vaccination Schedule

Hello, this is Ron Woody, Roane County Executive, with a December 29th Covid update.

Governor Bill Lee signed Executive Order 73 on December 22nd. This Order is 21 pages and rolls a number of Executive Orders into this one (1) order. Most previous Executive Orders related to Covid expire tonight, December 29th @ 11:59 pm.

Executive Order 73 takes effect tonight and expires February 27th.

Executive Order 73 C.2 grants the County Executive/Mayor authority to issue orders of wearing face coverings. I have elected to extend the Roane County Mask Mandate until February 27, 2021. Roane County continues under a mask mandate.

I want to talk about the vaccination and Herd immunity.

The medical profession has talked about us needing Herd immunity allowing us to get back to normal. Herd immunity is anywhere from 70-90% of the population being exposed to the virus by way of being positive or vaccinated.

With a population of 53,400 we need 37,380 positive or vaccinated at the 70% range.

We have positive recorded: 4,134

We have vaccinated around: 400

Round to 4,500 of 53,400 which is 8.4%.

I know my numbers are off due to some people who have been positive and not recorded, and as of today, vaccination may be a little higher than 400. But, it does not make much difference how accurate numbers are as the number needed to have Herd immunity is a large number.

The solution is combination of factors. One main factor is vaccination which is averaging less than 100 a day.

Folks, we have a way to go for Herd immunity.

This is a Phase approached to vaccination.

- Phase 1A1-
 - Hospital/Emergency Staff
 - Homecare Staff
 - Assisted Living Staff & Residents along with Skilled Nursing Facility
 - First Responders

- Phase 1A2-
 - Other Medical Providers
 - Primary Care
 - Pharmacists
 - Therapists

Roane County is in Phases 1A1 and 1A2.

It is hard to get data of the percentage of 1A1 and 1A2 having received vaccination, but for all practical purposes maybe we have vaccinated in the teens or twenties percentage. Everyone in the group does not want or will not be eligible to be vaccinated, thus transition to other phases take place before a prior phase is complete. Any time someone in an early phase can change their mind or becomes eligible to now be vaccinated, they will have priority.

Phase 1b starts with the general population, but only those who have two (2) or more high risk medical conditions.

We then progress to Phases 2 which are teachers and school staff, and then on to Phases 3 and 4.

The Covid-19 Vaccination Plan is scheduled to be updated soon, and we will place the update plan on our website.

The most important thing we need to understand is we are a ways out before the general population has a vaccination and this plan is very fluid and subject to change on a daily basis.

Stay tuned. As the general population has the availability of the vaccine, we will report phone numbers, locations, and how you will be in the queue to be vaccinated.

Keep practicing good healthy hygiene, wear your face coverings, and social distance.

RW/ba
C:media

