

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

(Sept 9, 2021): Knox County Hospital remains committed to your safety

The COVID-19 is still very much alive, even though there are now vaccines designed to eliminate the threat of catching the virus or to limit its severity. Therefore, Knox County Hospital continues to be committed to helping you stay safe.

More than a year after we first learned of it, COVID-19 is still a dangerous infection and is spreading rapidly throughout the United States. And now, with the onset of the much more contagious and virulent Delta variant, Covid-19 is even more worrying than ever! According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the risk level of catching the Covid-19 virus in Knox County is “Medium”. Only about 37% of residents are fully vaccinated, much less than the national average of nearly 54% of the U.S. population having received two full doses of either the Pfizer, or Moderna vaccine or one full dose of the Johnson & Johnson.

As of late August 2021, the Food and Drug Administration has granted full approval to the Pfizer vaccine and full approval is soon expected for both the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines as well. Prior to this, all were granted emergency approval.

Illness caused by the surge in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant are filling up area hospital beds in Texas, making it difficult for other patients with critical needs to receive timely care. With lives on the line, we all need to do our best to prevent catching or spreading the virus. The CDC has also called for **booster shots** to the three vaccines to be given about six months after the last dose of the original injection. Currently, the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for those at risk by the FDA. Booster shots are intended to offset any waning effectiveness of the original injections.

Please help us keep Knox County Hospital facilities as safe as possible

- If you have flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms, call us before coming to the hospital or clinics
- Wear a mask while visiting Knox County Hospital or one of the clinics
- Keep a safe distance from other patients whenever possible
- Sanitize your hands when arriving and leaving the hospital or clinics

Protect Yourself and others from COVID-19

Your first concern with COVID-19 is to make sure you are doing what you can to protect yourself and your loved ones from infection. This is a serious disease. We need to limit its spread using common sense actions.

- Limit social contact
- Wear a mask in public
- Wash or sanitize your hands
- Maintain physical distance whenever possible

[CDC COVID-19 Safety Guide](#)

If You Feel Sick

If you feel sick or are showing symptoms like cough, fever, or fatigue - you need to take steps to protect your health and the health of others.

- Call Knox County Hospital to speak to our caring professionals
- Isolate yourself from others as much as possible
- Always cover your face near other people, even at home

If You Feel Sick

There are several things you should do if you are sick or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, and have a fever or respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath):

- **Stay home** if you are sick or believe you have been exposed to the virus, even if you aren't showing any symptoms.
- **Avoid public areas and transportation.**
- **Call the clinic** first before coming into the doctor's office or emergency department.
- **Avoid coming to the emergency department**, unless you have a health emergency and/or you have been advised by your health care provider to do so. This helps prevent the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection.
- **Separate yourself from other people and animals** as much as possible, while you are sick.
- **Wear a face mask, if you are sick.**
- **Monitor yourself for fever, coughing and shortness of breath.**
- **Take the same precautions you would if you had the common cold or flu** (e.g., wash your hands frequently)

Knox County Hospital will continue to be here to take care of you and your family during this time.