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PACC NEWSLETTER

Study Updates

Thank You

Thank you for contributing to research to fight the pandemic. We exceeded our recruitment goal with **1518** participants enrolled last winter. We are busy analyzing the data and samples you provided to help us learn more about COVID-19 in our community. We will learn about the frequency and spectrum of COVID-19 illness, and how well COVID-19 vaccines are working.

Your participation has been *incredible*.



94% of participants completed the weekly survey each week.



>22,400 nasal samples have been collected and tested.



>4600 blood samples have been collected.

Possible Study Extension

Many participants have completed or will be completing their one-year commitment to the study in the coming months. We are hoping to extend this study through the current respiratory season (through Spring 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and impact our community locally and worldwide. Much remains unknown and continuing this study will provide important information on illness caused by new variants, impact of vaccination and booster doses, and duration of protection after vaccination and infection. Stay tuned for more information on how you can participate in this study for longer than one year.

Early Findings

Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines

While the main study goals did not include evaluating COVID-19 vaccines, this study provided a unique opportunity to determine how well vaccines work once they became available.

In our study, we found mRNA COVID-19 vaccines reduced the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection by about 56%.



Circulation of the Delta variant and waning vaccine protection may have contributed to the lower estimates we observed in our study compared to reported estimates from clinical trials and early vaccine effectiveness studies. Other studies have shown that mRNA vaccines continue to provide high protection against serious COVID-19 illness, including hospitalization.

In addition to vaccination, other preventive measures (e.g., masking, social distancing, etc.) are still important to reduce infections. A booster dose may also help increase protection among vaccinated persons.

CDC recommends all persons aged 5 years and older receive the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccinated persons 16 years and older receive a booster dose.

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine or schedule an appointment at Marshfield Clinic Health System at marshfieldclinic.org/CovidVaccine.

Estimate of Prior COVID-19 Illness

Blood samples are being tested for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The presence of antibodies indicates prior infection or vaccination.

Using the blood samples collected at enrollment (November 2020-March 2021), we estimated that 1 in 5 people in our area likely had COVID-19 illness prior to enrolling in this study. Working aged adults were slightly more affected than children and older adults. We will continue to analyze the blood samples collected during the study to assess trends over time and detect possible asymptomatic infections.

