

Covid 19: A Cautionary Tale

By Ryan Barbin

As if the uncertainty of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic wasn't enough, there are other new and developing ramifications that we should all be made aware of and take precaution against.



As we are soon approaching the one-year mark since the Coronavirus outbreak was officially declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, the questions, concerns, fears and complications have multiplied steadily along with the infection rates and ever-climbing death toll. As the invisible, biological villain wreaks havoc on the immune systems of the greater part of the world population, doctors and scientists race the clock to develop and deliver vaccines in mass proportion, and the media oversaturates the airwaves with a multitude of confusing, inconsistent and overwhelmingly excessive information, it is no surprise to find many Americans frustrated and exhausted to the brim of their patience reserves.

Mask ordinances, curfews, occupancy restrictions, business closures, financial plights; the growing inventory of asperities is no short grocery list jotted down on a post-it note. It is enough to make anyone want to check out, turn off and go looking for a stiff drink, leisure activity or an escape from the stress of current affairs.

Although, However stressful the circumstances, it is most important that we maintain informed and tuned in to prevent further detriment. When it rains, it pours; and knowledge can be a much-needed umbrella to help weather the brewing storm.

A Few Things Unconsidered

Supply shortages, scams, variant strains and other challenges make the process of providing vaccinations to the masses a daunting task with an uncertain timeline. However, with a little knowledge and preparation, we can all do our part to assist in making the road to pandemic recovery a little less bumpy.



243,897

Doses Administered in Clark County as of Feb. 09, 2021

Supply and Demand Issues:

The supply of Covid19 vaccines is struggling to keep up with the states demand, as all the appointments to get vaccinated are constantly filling up. Here locally in Clark County Nevada, over 240,000 doses have

been administered, but at the going rate, it could take up to 2 years to vaccinate the entire population of Las Vegas.

Double Booking and Line Jumping:

According to Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), double booking appointments is becoming a serious issue with over 10,000 duplicate appointments to date. Failure to properly cancel duplicate appointments causes gaps preventing other people from being able to schedule their appointments. This in turn leads to other issues that risk the possibility of having to waste or dispose of vaccines due to the strict storing and temperature control required.

To combat this, SNHD is attempting to maintain extra supply and staff on hand to assist with walk-ins, and they are adamantly encouraging people to cancel their duplicate appointments.

Line jumping is also an issue, as a growing number of wealthy and crafty people are finding ways to game the system and jump the line to receive the vaccine before they are eligible. This is a new and growing concern, so restrictions and enforcement have not been strong enough to adequately prevent this from happening. Some technical issues have also allotted people who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine to jump the line. This then causes issues preventing other “higher risk” persons from receiving their vaccine appointments. As this issue continues, more enforcement is being enacted and could prove to be costly to those who continue to try to game the system.

New Strains:

As with other viruses, there is always concerns over mutating and evolving strains that develop. New strains from U.K., South Africa and Brazil have been gaining traction and have been popping up in different areas around the U.S. The 7th case of the new South African strain was confirmed here in Las Vegas on February 11, 2020.

So far, the CDC says that the antibodies within the current approved vaccines recognize the variants within these new strains, but the threat is one being closely monitored as it can change with continued time and further evolution.

Vaccine Scams:

Similar to the growing number of “IRS” calls and other growing scams that can be quite convincing, confusing and detrimental, scams regarding Covid19 vaccinations have begun. It is important that people are informed and cautious in regard to these. Vaccines are being offered free of charge, and no offer or requirement to pay for priority access, to join a waitlist or to receive the vaccine in any expedited manner should be considered. These are most certainly attempts to scam people for money and/or identity theft, and can be dangerous to those who are unaware and uninformed of their existence.

SNHD Urges Against Double Booking for COVID Vaccine.

<https://news3lv.com/amp/news/local/snhd-urges-against-double-booking-for-covid-vaccine>

How People Are Jumping The COVID-19 Vaccine Line.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/02/09/965841419/does-loose-enforcement-of-vaccine-eligibility-rules-encourage-line-jumping>

New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

Protect Yourself: Avoid Covid 19 Vaccine Scams. <https://oig.hhs.gov/coronavirus/vaccine-scams2020.pdf>

Covid 19 Vaccine. <https://covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/vaccine/>

States face difficult balance of supply and demand for COVID-19 vaccine.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/states-face-difficult-balance-supply-demand-covid-19/story?id=75235553>