

Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2

August 29, 2021

Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic remains a concern for all of us. Earlier this summer it seemed as if we would all be able to return to a normal existence by this fall. However, the rapid spread of the Delta variant has caused us to reassess how quickly we can get back to a normal life here in the United States.

The recent FDA approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (and the anticipated approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine) should come as welcome news to some who were waiting to be vaccinated.

Both of us (Dr. Keenan and Dr. Gordon) receive daily email communications from UTMC-K regarding current hospitalizations resulting from COVID and it is abundantly clear that the majority of hospitalized patients are those who are unvaccinated.

Although the COVID vaccines do not prevent 100% of infections, the odds of a vaccinated person requiring hospitalization (or care in the ICU) are markedly reduced by having had the vaccine.

Pregnant patients are certainly at risk for a severe illness resulting from infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. We support the recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM), the CDC and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and encourage **all** of our patients undergoing fertility treatment and **all** of our pregnant patients to receive vaccination with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID 19 vaccines.

There is no evidence that these vaccines cause an increased risk of infertility, first or second trimester loss, stillbirth, or congenital anomalies.

While COVID-19 vaccination can cause fever in some patients (up to 16% of those vaccinated and mostly after the second dose), this risk should not be a concern when deciding whether to vaccinate a pregnant individual or a patient desiring pregnancy.

We are happy to discuss vaccination with our patients and urge eligible patients to become vaccinated as soon as possible.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand the recommendations of both Dr. Keenan and Dr. Gordon concerning COVID vaccination.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date