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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Taney County is Experiencing an Uptick in COVID-19 Cases**

As mask mandates and social distancing requirements are being relaxed, the area is seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

“This uptick in cases is not surprising,” states Lisa Marshall, Director of the Taney County Health Department, “We experienced the same thing this time last year, fortunately, this year is different because there are safe effective vaccines available to prevent COVID-19.”

Another thing that is different from last year is variants. As a virus makes copies of itself, it sometimes changes a little bit, or mutates. This is common for a virus to do. A virus with one or more new mutations is referred to as a “variant” of the original virus. The more the virus spreads, the greater the possibility a variant will appear.

It appears that both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine are working against all known variants at this time, but scientists are keeping a close eye on this as new variants continue to emerge.

The best way to protect yourself from getting or spreading COVID-19 virus from spreading is to get vaccinated. The Taney County Health Department will be holding two Pfizer vaccination clinics at the Shoppes at Branson Meadows. There will be a limited supply of vaccine. Those ages 12 and older can sign-up today.

- Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm
- Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-4 pm

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 417-334-4544 ext 570 visit our website at [www.taneycohealth.org](http://www.taneycohealth.org), or like our FaceBook, Instagram and Pinterest pages.

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The Taney County Health Department envisions a community of healthy people. Every day, we work to achieve this vision through leadership, collaboration, education and service. We value integrity, learning, teamwork, positive communication, quality improvement and dedicated service. Please visit our website <http://www.taneycohealth.org> to learn more about our services.