Mississippi has witnessed a steady decline in COVID-19 cases over the past six weeks, accompanied by a steady increase in immunizations. Community transmission continues at a significant rate and many remain vulnerable to severe illness and death from COVID-19.

The Mississippi State Department of Health is making the following recommendations to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.

All Mississippi residents age 65 or older, or 16 and older with serious chronic medical conditions, should avoid all social gatherings outside of the household or any in-person mass gathering, including religious ceremonies, or sporting events, until fully protected by an approved COVID-19 vaccine. Full vaccine effectiveness occurs two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines and 28 days after the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. A list of high-risk medical conditions, along with a list of who is currently eligible to be vaccinated, can be found here: [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html)
Alerting Message Specification Settings

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20210302-00502-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00502  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.  
**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.  
**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyyy-mm-dd-TT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.  
**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.  
**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.  
**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.  
**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.  
**Status (Type):**  
  - **Actual:** Communication or alert refers to a live event  
  - **Exercise:** Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert  
  - **Test:** Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:
Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:
Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:
Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).