

## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** Sherry Weldon <sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 2:53 PM  
**To:** 'Ansari, Talal'  
**Subject:** RE: Wall Street Journal story - Rise in cases

We were told that international laborers returned to the US and brought the Delta variant with them. We do not have a high vaccinate rate for those 20-50 year olds that seem to the age group getting COVID. We do have a high vaccinate rate (68%) for our 65 + age group.

Data:

31.6% fully vaccinated/34.5% Initiated  
18 & Up 40% fully vaccinated  
65 & Up 68% fully vaccinated

286 total cases in May  
242 as of June 22nd

**From:** Ansari, Talal <talal.ansari@wsj.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 12:59 PM  
**To:** sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com  
**Subject:** Wall Street Journal story - Rise in cases

Hi,

I'm a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, reporting on Covid-19.

I'm doing a story about a rise in Covid-19 cases in the state of Missouri, particularly cases per 100,000.

I just have a couple of questions:

- *What are the reasons, or speculations, for why there is a rise in cases in the state? Is it a low vaccination rate? A variant, the Delta variant? Both?*

- *Do you have any data you can share, either about the rise in cases and vaccination rates? Are the rise in cases linked to any specific ethnic or socio economic group?*

- *What is the health dept doing to help combat the spread?*

- *Anything else you would like to add?*

I'm on deadline, so if you could respond by email, that would be ideal. A phone interview would suffice too if absolutely needed. Please keep your answers as brief as possible (easier for you!), as I don't want you to go too out of your way to provide this information.

Thanks, as always.  
Talal

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Talal Ansari

**REPORTER**



**Mobile/Signal:** 917-587-6170

**Twitter:** [@TalalNAnsari](#)

**Tips?** <https://www.wsj.com/tips> (c / o Ansari)

## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** Sherry Weldon <sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 9:01 AM  
**To:** amy@visitchillicothe.com  
**Subject:** RE: County Communications

Thanks for working on this. We are a "Center" instead of a department. Not sure why our founding fathers thought we should be named that! We also don't know if the original Delta variant came from Linn. We had a Chula guy that tested positive with it before we heard anything about Linn county workers. Let's not say anything about where it originated. I think Springfield has taken over the as the spotlight so I really don't think we need to worry about the media. We're burning out. Only 3-4 positives since last Thurs evening. We're still testing and of course still vaccinating on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-12 and 1-4pm. Thanks again.

sw

**From:** amy@visitchillicothe.com <amy@visitchillicothe.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 7:02 PM  
**To:** sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com  
**Subject:** County Communications

Sending this to you and Ed before the rest of the group. There are a couple questions for you.



UK B.1.617.2 (Incl or India or NY

City	Sewershed	Date	Summary 1Y/A570D .452R+T478K	L452R
Rolla		6-15	2%	91%
KC	KCBLU	6-15	60%	40%
Springfield	SouthWest	6-14	30%	70%
Cassville		6-15	20%	80%
Neosho		6-16		98%
Monett		6-14		88%
Joplin	Turkey Creek	6-15	15%	85%
Charleston		6-16		100%
Fulton		6-15		100%
Springfield	NorthWest	6-14	85%	15%
Milan		6-14	70%	30%
St. Peters		6-15		100%
Jefferson City		6-15		100%
NPSDS		6-15		100%
Joplin	Shoal Creek	6-15		100%
St. Louis	Coldwater Creek	6-15	50%	50%
Warrensburg	West	6-14	30%	70%
St. Louis	Bissell Point	6-15		100%
Southwest City		6-15		30%
Columbia		6-15		100%
St. Joseph		6-14		100%
St. Louis	Missouri River	6-15	25%	75%
Independence	LBVAT	6-16		100%
Brookfield		6-14		100%
Mexico		6-16		100%
Marshfield		6-15		100%
Macon	East Interceptor	6-14		100%
Bolivar		6-16		100%
Eldon		6-16		100%
Liberty		6-15		100%
KC	Birmingham	6-15	50%	50%
KC	Rocky Branch	6-15	40%	60%
Memphis		6-15		100%
St Charles county	Duckett Creek #1	6-14		100%
Marceline		6-15		100%
Chilicothe		6-16		100%

Brazil SA NY v.2  
E484K 4K/N501Y 4K/N501Y S477N  
7%

12%

## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** Wenzel, Jeff <Jeff.Wenzel@health.mo.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 3:27 PM  
**To:** Allen, Pamela; Allen, Scott; Archer, Rex; Baker, Deborah; Banks, Terre; Bayer, Tiffany; Behm, Paige; Bergner, Larry; Blankenship, Devin; Brace, Craig; Bradley, Debra; 'Brenstew33@hotmail.com'; Brewer, Tara; Brock, Roger; Browning, Stephanie; Bundy, Kendra; Campbell, Kristi; Chambers, Mike; Clardy, Scott; Cook, Barry; Czech, Sarah; Dees, Jayne; Doucette, Emily; Durnell, Steve; Echols, Fredrick; Evers, Sara; Forester, Sylvia; Gilliam, Chris; Godwin, Ben; Heinen, Christina; Herbert, Mike; Hittson, Angie; House, Liz; Hunt, Becky; JHinrichs@stlouiscountymo.gov; 'JMcHugh@sccmo.org'; Johnson, Rachelle; 'kfindley@springfieldmo.gov'; 'Khan, Faisal'; Krouse, Sarah; Lanning, Curtis; Link, Jennifer; Lynch, Sharon; Marshall, Lisa; Martin, Joann; McBride, Olivia (Jean); McDonald, Teresa; Moehr, Tony; Mooney, Jon; Morris, Michelle; MPAUZA@sccmo.org; Murray, Lori; Neblock, Krista; NKolenchery@stlouiscountymo.gov; 'NTutlam@stlouisco.com'; Peak, Karen; Pekarek, Daniel; Pitts, Tonya; Ragsdale, Linda; Reynolds, Melissa; Schmidt, Spring; Semkiw, Elizabeth; Shaffer (Casey), Bridgette; Siefert, Brett; Smith, Jackie; Snyder, Mark; Steitz, Christina; Sutterfield, Evelena; Swaim, Katie; Talken, Ryan; Taylor, Deborah; Taylor, Tanya; Thompson, Frank; Tilley, Ryan; Turabelidze, George; Tuua, Tiffany; Vader, Dawn; VanNatta, Samantha; Vernon, Mary Jo; Viebrock, Linda; Vollmar, Kelley; Wann, Ashley; Warlen, Andrew; Weldon, Sherry; Wernsman, Jane; Wieberg, Chris; Wieberg, Rebecca; YAbbyad@sccmo.org; Young, Mary; Zaborac, Gary  
**Subject:** Sewershed results from the week of June 14th  
**Attachments:** Sewershed 6-25-2021.xlsx

MU worked very hard this week to get 36 locations tested (most ever) and got it to us early.

Locations tested include:

Rolla, KC, Springfield, Cassville, Neosho, Monett, Joplin, Charleston, Fulton, Milan, St. Peters, Jefferson City, NPSDS, Joplin, St. Louis, Warrensburg, Southwest City, Columbia, St. Joseph, Independence, Brookfield, Mexico, Marshfield, Macon, Bolivar, Eldon, Liberty, KC, Memphis, St Charles county, Marceline, and Chillicothe

All 36 WWTFs we tested this week contained the Delta variant. Keep in mind that this does not mean that the variant is everywhere. We are only sequencing places with enough RNA level for us to do this analysis. There are still many areas where the RNA levels are quite low.

13 locations contained a combination of variants.

It is still my plan to update the storymap with this variant data on Tuesday.

These percentages have shown up on Facebook. The one I know of is Matthew Holloway. This science and data is very new and it is easy to inaccurately interpret or use it in ways that are not supported by science. It also should not be used to compare one location to another. We are currently working with CDC to determine ways to further the use of this data.

Thank you.

Jeff Wenzel  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology  
Division of Community and Public Health

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
930 Wildwood  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
(573)751-6102 or (866) 628-9891  
fax: (573) 526-6946

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**UK B.1.617.2 (Incl or India or NY**

City	Sewershed	Date	Summary 1Y/A570D	L452R+T478K	L452R
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Brazil SA NY v.2  
E484K 4K/N501Y 4K/N501Y S477N  
7%

12%

## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** City Mayor <mayor@chillicothe.city.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 1:45 PM  
**To:** 'Crystal Narr'; 'Sherry Weldon'; amy@visitchillicothe.com; 'Ed Douglas'; 'Ed Douglas'; cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org; dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Communication Plan next round

Thank you, Amy & Crystal!

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**From:** Crystal Narr [mailto:chamber@chillicothemo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 10:16 AM  
**To:** 'Sherry Weldon'; amy@visitchillicothe.com; 'Ed Douglas'; 'Ed Douglas'; cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org; 'Mayor'; dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Communication Plan next round

Happy to make any changes to these or add any additional pieces needed. See attached.  
I have a couple ready to input testimonials (with photos) on if you have individuals or families in mind for that.

*Crystal Narr*

Executive Director  
Chillicothe Area Chamber of Commerce  
[www.chillicothemo.com](http://www.chillicothemo.com)  
660-646-4050

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**From:** Crystal Narr [mailto:chamber@chillicothemo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** 'Sherry Weldon'; 'amy@visitchillicothe.com'; 'Ed Douglas'; 'Ed Douglas'; 'cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org'; 'Mayor'; 'dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Communication Plan next round

I will work up some visuals to back up the messaging that we can all utilize to further the message on our social media channels. I'll get that started this afternoon and, with any luck, I will hopefully have them to everyone by EOB today.

*Crystal Narr*

Executive Director  
Chillicothe Area Chamber of Commerce  
[www.chillicothemo.com](http://www.chillicothemo.com)  
660-646-4050

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**From:** Sherry Weldon [mailto:sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** amy@visitchillicothe.com; 'Ed Douglas'; 'Ed Douglas'; cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org; 'Mayor'; 'Crystal Narr'; dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Communication Plan next round

Yes, #2 is a correct statement.

**From:** amy@visitchillicothe.com <amy@visitchillicothe.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 11:26 AM

**To:** 'Ed Douglas' <ed@eddouglas.com>; 'Ed Douglas' <eddouglas52@hotmail.com>; cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org; 'Mayor' <mayor@chillicothe.city.org>; 'Crystal Narr' <chamber@chillicothemo.com>; sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com; dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com

**Subject:** Communication Plan next round

Thank you for all the great feedback. Jennifer also added some great wording so here is a new version. I just focused in on the talking points for right now.

Sherry – can you confirm the stats in paragraph 2 as I know Ed is anxious to talk to the media ASAP using this info. This can be an evergreen document so feel free to keep sending thoughts and additions.

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There are many differing views of the pandemic and its implications; one thing we can all agree on is the importance of keeping our community safe. We need everybody's help to do that.

In Livingston County, 39% of Livingston County residents over age 18 are vaccinated. And 67% of those over 65 are vaccinated. This makes us 20<sup>th</sup> in the state of Missouri for vaccinations.

A few points to consider:

1. While there may be some exceptions, studies show that vaccines are effective in preventing Covid-19. Our county's best shot at combating the pandemic is to get the majority of our residents vaccinated.
  - a. As more people in our community become vaccinated against Covid-19, the virus will have fewer people to infect and transmission will naturally go down. Every person that gets vaccinated brings us one step closer to defeating this virus.
  - b. There are many locations to receive the vaccine for free including the Livingston County Health Center, Hedrick Medical Center, and all local pharmacies. For more info on where to find a location to get the Covid-19 vaccine near you, go to [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov).
2. Those who are unvaccinated, high risk or concerned are encouraged to wear a mask and social distance.
3. In May we experienced a spike in Covid-19 cases and new variants of the virus whose origin has been traced to isolated international travel. Many of our county residents and businesses continue to be vigilant about preventive measures and subsequently, we are seeing a decline in numbers.

**From:** amy@visitchillicothe.com <amy@visitchillicothe.com>

**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 2:19 PM

**To:** 'Ed Douglas' <ed@eddouglas.com>; 'Ed Douglas' <eddouglas52@hotmail.com>; 'cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org' <cityadmin@chillicothe.city.org>; 'Mayor' <mayor@chillicothe.city.org>; 'Crystal Narr' <chamber@chillicothemo.com>; 'sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com' <sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com>; 'dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com' <dixon.jennifer11@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Communications Plan

Here is the plan we discussed with talking points. Please review and send any feedback to me ASAP. Ed would like it by the end of the day.

(I apologize for getting this out a little late in the day – we have two big groups in town this week so yay!)

Sherry also mentioned that the New York Times has on a downward trending county list which is good and could be something to share if we have a link.

Thanks,  
Amy

## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** Sherry Weldon <sherry.weldon@livcohealth.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** 'Curtis Lanning'; 'Lori Murray'  
**Subject:** FW: Elevations in your County - MO CoVID Sewershed Surveillance Project Data

I'm going to call this person and ask about dates etc...and why we didn't hear from them weeks ago when we were having so many positives!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Semkiw, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Semkiw@health.mo.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 9:01 AM  
**To:** Bradley, Debra <dbradley@stjoemo.org>; Bundy, Kendra <kbundy@stjoemo.org>; Neblock, Krista <kneblock@linncohealth.org>; Weldon, Sherry <SHERRY.WELDON@LIVCOHEALTH.COM>; Bergner, Larry <BergnerL@newtoncountyhealth.org>; Krouse, Sarah <Sarah.Krouse@lpha.mo.gov>; Morris, Michelle <MICHELLE.MORRIS@POLKCOUNTYHEALTH.ORG>  
**Cc:** Bayer, Tiffany <Tiffany.Bayer@health.mo.gov>; Wenzel, Jeff <Jeff.Wenzel@health.mo.gov>; Reynolds, Melissa <Melissa.Reynolds@health.mo.gov>; Klutts, Jessica <Jessica.Klutts@dnr.mo.gov>; Zemmer, Sally <Sally.Zemmer@dnr.mo.gov>  
**Subject:** Elevations in your County - MO CoVID Sewershed Surveillance Project Data

Good morning,

I am emailing to let you know we have seen what we may consider a significant increase or elevation in SARS-CoV-2 genetic material in a sewershed collection location in your area (Neosho, St. Joseph, Bolivar, and Memphis wastewater treatment facilities). The viral load concentrations at Marceline and Chillicothe were also high. Please refer to Box.com or BI Portal to look at this data.

This is a developing science, so there is not a lot we can guarantee these results mean. The correlations we have been able to do to this point show that a significant increase in viral load is followed 4 to 6 days later with an increase (at least 25%) in positive human cases approximately 70% of the time. As with any model, we do not recommend using sewershed data alone in decision making; however, it may be a useful piece of information along with other data sources. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

We typically make this data available to the public on Fridays through our storyboard: [https://ephtn.dhss.mo.gov/EPHTN\\_Data\\_Portal/data.php](https://ephtn.dhss.mo.gov/EPHTN_Data_Portal/data.php). Due to the holiday last Friday, publication of these data was delayed. The storyboard should be updated by the end of today.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Semkiw  
Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Manager Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
930 Wildwood Dr.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
(573) 751-6102 or (866) 628-9891  
[elizabeth.semkiw@health.mo.gov](mailto:elizabeth.semkiw@health.mo.gov)<mailto:elizabeth.semkiw@health.mo.gov>

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## Sherry Weldon

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**From:** Bayer, Tiffany <Tiffany.Bayer@health.mo.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 4:13 PM  
**Subject:** Using wastewater testing to investigate COVID-19 virus variants in Missouri

Please see the message below from Jeff Wenzel, Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology.

As many of you know, DHSS has been working with the University of Missouri-Columbia and the Department of Natural Resources on one of the DHSS surveillance priorities: Coronavirus Sewershed Surveillance Project. In February of this year, this team was one of the first in the nation to begin viral sequence monitoring of wastewater samples, which allows for identification of variant viruses in the sewage. While not highly prevalent, the analysis indicates the B.1.1.7 variant is present in samples collected from throughout the state. 15 of the 23 communities tested showed small amounts (often a fraction of a percent) of genetic material containing mutations consistent with the B.1.1.7 variant.

The "South California" variant was also seen in most sewersheds in Missouri. While it is interesting to the sewershed team that we were able to see multiple variants, the role of this particular variant in the overall epidemic is not clearly understood yet. Human cases of "South California" variant have been reported in many states, including Missouri.

At this time, we do not know if these low variant virus levels will continue to increase. There is no clear association with increasing human cases of variant virus in Missouri, but as we are ramping up our sequencing capacity at the SPHL, we may see more human cases in Missouri.

The second round of sequencing of sewershed samples is currently being submitted. Results of this sample should be available in about 2 weeks.

Please let me know if you should have any questions about this testing.

Thank you.

Jeff Wenzel  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology  
Division of Community and Public Health  
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
930 Wildwood  
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(573)751-6102 or (866) 628-9891  
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