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While local COVID-19 infections continue to increase and strain our local health system, City of McCall urges education and makes facility changes to protect service capability.

In last night's meeting of McCall City Council, local St. Luke's Hospital representatives presented updated statistics and stressed a renewed warning to our community. Chief Operating and Nursing Officer Amber Green and Dr. Paddy O. Kinney shared information that showed an increase of infections expected to continue in the coming months.

So far, eight days into September, 365 tests have been performed, and 65 were positive in the local St. Luke's facility. "Of the 65 that tested positive, 34 were actual McCall Residents. The majority of the positives are coming from our age group 0 to 17," reported Amber Green. System-wide, Green noted that 71% of critical care patients are COVID related, and 98% of those COVID Patients are unvaccinated. Green also explained that they expect to see a peak in cases in early to mid-October, according to the projection data.

Dr. Paddy Kinney told a sad story of what providers see on the front lines. "It's been a trying time for everybody," Kinney shared. He expressed concern that they are witnessing patient deaths and children on ventilators. In addition, he reported to Council that 92-93% of patients admitted to the hospital are not vaccinated, and 98% of those intubated are not vaccinated. St. Lukes McCall stresses the importance of vaccination to help protect against the virus and reduce stress on the health care system to provide the best care.

Chief of Police Justin Williams informed Council that beginning Monday, September 13th, all city-run facilities would require masks. City staff provides and encourages by-appointment and virtual communication for services to further protect those who cannot mask and reduce impacts to staff,. Anette Spickard, City Manager, added, "we have a fairly small staff, and we need to protect our ability to serve the public." City Council stated that we should continue to educate the public and protect our staff.

Resources:

- Watch the meeting on-demand at <https://youtu.be/VAEaTpJVDYE>
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard by Idaho Division of Public Health](#)
- [CDC COVID -19 Information and Guidance](#)
- [St. Luke's McCall COVID Resources](#)

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Quick Recap:

- In McCall, masks are required in all City Facilities.
- St. Luke's is seeing increased cases made up of primarily unvaccinated patients.
- Positive cases are expected to peak in early to mid-October.
- Vaccinations are the best tool to protect the community.

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