

Dear Fellow Citizens of Lampasas County,

The past 15 months have felt like much longer to myself as well as countless others. I am happy to see the steady decline in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and fatalities as the usage of the vaccines has increased. Almost 30% of the county is vaccinated fully now and I've seen first-hand how effective it can be. As I resign from being the Local Health Authority for the county, I wanted to say a few parting words. I have so many people to thank who helped whenever I called. There are so many that donated their time, talents, and hearts to help those in our community. Countless volunteers for vaccination clinics and my contact tracing team gave a tremendous effort for the citizens of Lampasas County. I also wanted to humbly offer my condolences for those that lost loved ones from our county as well as those who perished across the country. I pray that God gives you comfort during this time. Our COVID numbers are improving, but these folks are the solemn reminder of the worst of this pandemic. I do believe the vaccines are a safe and effective way to prevent fatalities and hospitalizations from this disease. I had a patient who lost a family member to COVID share a quick story with me that I'd like to share with you. It started with flooding in an area and a man climbing higher and higher in his house. He was a man with a strong faith and said "God will save me". He climbed higher as the water rose and a rescue crew on a boat drove up and offered assistance, his reply was "God will save me". The waters continued to rise and he ended up on his roof. At that point a helicopter dropped a rescue basket but he declined again stating "God will save me". After a while the man was swept away and he drowned. When he went to heaven and met God, God stated, "What are you doing here, it's too soon". The man replied well I was waiting for you to save me. God smiled and said "I sent you a rescue boat and a helicopter, what more do you want?" Utilizing the vaccine will help us maintain control of this disease that I don't think will completely go away as more variants circulate, although we can always hope. I know I feel much better now that I am vaccinated and know that I won't get my family and dear friends in this community sick. As I write this letter, we are down to 1 active case in our county. Hope is a wonderful and powerful force that I think is the positive that comes out of adversity. God bless everyone, and thank you for the opportunity to serve this community.

Sincerely,

Georgia C. Hay, MD