



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

September 21, 2021

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**Dr. Lisa Davidson,**  
Infectious Disease Specialist, Atrium/ID  
Consultants



**Dr. Robert Taylor,**  
Pulmonologist, Atrium Health

## COVID-19 Facts & Myths: Doctors Speak

By Bill Bartee

Popular requests from within the club helped make this informative discussion about COVID-19 and vaccinations possible at Charlotte Rotary.

Charlotte Rotarian, Dr. Bruce Darden of OrthoCarolina Spine Center introduced and moderated the discussion with our guests, Dr. Lisa Davidson, an infectious disease specialist with Atrium/ID Consultants and Dr. Robert Taylor, a pulmonologist with Atrium Health.

In the past week, we learned that the current Pandemic has surpassed the deaths caused by the 1918 Spanish Flu and that coronaviruses are very common (like many cold viruses). However, this one is "successful" due to its ability to spread to multiple hosts. This is shown by the almost 43 million people that have been stricken within the U.S. and the nearly 700,000 fatalities that it has caused.

The virus is most contagious in its early stages with the symptoms of dry cough, headaches, and fever. The next stage symptoms involve loss of taste and smell and the progresses to loss of oxygen to the stricken. One of the unknowns is why COVID-19 and its variants affect people differently.

Some of the treatments to aid people in fighting the lung inflammation, damage and distress have involved everything from giving steroids to mechanical ventilation. This is done to aid and maintain patients into a recovery status.

The overarching opinion of our presenters is that this current part of the epidemic is “self-inflicted,” as indicated by Dr. Taylor and is shown in the data of “90-95% of patients being unvaccinated” versus the remaining having received a vaccine treatment.

Some resistance may have been created by the initial confusion created by early messaging. This was due to the occurrence of “science in real-time.” One positive was the world response to helping create a vaccine quickly.

Wrapping up was a bit of warning regarding football games and crowds, home tests having a higher degree of inaccuracy, and the difficulty of overall eradication of corona viruses in general. Also, vaccinated people can still get and spread COVID although many times the symptoms for them may be less severe.

The current goal is to prevent a surge. The way to do this is to continue a multiple line of defense: Get vaccinated, social distance, wear a mask, be in an area with adequate air circulation and wash your hands frequently.

\*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/611024658>

The program introduction begins at 22:40 minutes.