



September 30, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

We've reached the end of September, and the fall colors are putting on quite a show! I hope you're able to make time to get outside and enjoy it. It's a good mental health break! And couldn't we all use a break right about now?

The number of new cases in St. Louis County continues to increase: 682 people tested positive in the last week (total 21,463), and four new deaths have been reported, bringing the total to 342. A particularly concerning trend is the increased number of hospitalizations due to COVID. With 110 people requiring hospitalization in September, this month is now the third highest since the pandemic began (behind only November and December of last year).

Public Health Division Director Amy Westbrook wrote this [update on the current COVID-19 situation](#) in our county. There's a lot of good (though sobering) information in it, and I encourage you to read it.

We've updated our [online COVID-19 dashboard](#) to better show current case trend— by age group and region of the county. We've also added new graphs to show pediatric cases requiring hospitalization.

The number of new people seeking a COVID vaccine has slowed to a crawl this past week. We remain at 69.4% of our 16+ population being at least partially vaccinated.

Other updates and resources:

- **Testing:** getting tested for COVID-19 remains a key part of keeping people safe, but finding a test is not necessarily easy – especially in the northern part of the county. We just added three new days/locations on the Iron Range for walk-in saliva tests:
 - Mondays, 1-5 pm, Eveleth Auditorium 421 Jackson St., Eveleth
 - Tuesdays, 8 am-noon, Iron Trail Motors Event Center 919 6th St So, Virginia
 - Fridays, noon to 4 pm, SLC Government Service Center - Virginia[Check our website](#) for links to find other testing locations, and how to order a free Vault saliva test-from-home kits.
- **Booster shots:** approval came late last week. St. Louis County Public Health will administer booster shots at our clinics starting tomorrow. [Find details here](#) regarding eligibility, registration, and what you must bring for proof of earlier Pfizer doses.
- **Docket app:** More than 59,000 Minnesotans have now downloaded it to have ready access to their immunization records. (If you've misplaced your COVID-19 vaccination card and are eligible for a Pfizer booster, [the Docket app](#) is an approved option for showing proof of vaccination.)

Thank you for all you continue to do! Please don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email if I can be of assistance to you.

Carol Haasl
Public Health Liaison
St. Louis County
haaslc@stlouiscountymn.gov
Direct: (218)471-7339