Dear Community Partner Organization,

I want to thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we've made it through another month!

While the capacity for testing continues to increase, there are still limits on who can be tested. People who do not have symptoms should generally not be tested for COVID-19. The people who should be tested now are people who have symptoms of COVID-19, especially hospitalized patients, health care workers, patients and staff in congregate care settings, dialysis and other patients including outpatients. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) may also recommend that people get tested in certain situations, such as a setting where an outbreak is occurring.

The state has developed an online screening tool that can help answer the question of whether you or someone you know should be tested for COVID-19?

MDH continues to produce a variety of informational flyers that may help you and /or the people you serve. To highlight a few (each is linked to a PDF you can download):

- Surgical masks versus alternative (homemade) masks. What are the differences between the two, and the pros and cons of each?
- Can pets catch/spread COVID-19? Here's helpful information on how to care for pets and companion animals right now.
- A timely grid as spring allergy season is just around the corner. What are the differences in symptoms between COVID-19, the flu, common cold and allergies?

Please remember I am here as a resource for you. If you're encountering any COVID-19 questions or challenges, I am available by phone or email, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services
is here to work alongside you as you navigate response to COVID 19. **Your organization is a key partner in protecting and promoting community health!**

As the COVID-19 situation rapidly evolves, find accurate, up to date information here:
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)