



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

September 16, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

I certainly wish I had been news to share, but our transmission rate remains high. Yesterday we surpassed 20,000 confirmed cases in the county. As of today, the overall total is 20,173. This includes 435 newly reported cases in the last week, as well as 66 older cases that were recently verified through an MDH audit. Five deaths were added (total 335), though these, too, were all older cases.

The demand for vaccinations has dropped considerably, with just 263 first doses administered in the last week. This brings the total number of SLC residents at least partially vaccinated to 119,661, or 69.3% of our 16+ population.

Other updates and resources:

- COVID-19 vaccination cards - We continue to hear questions about what to do if a person loses theirs. Now there's an app called Docket that allows anyone in Minnesota to access all their vaccination records (as they appear in the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection - MIIC). Information on the Docket app, and a link to download [can be found here](#). Meanwhile, anyone who doesn't have a smart phone can continue to request a copy of their vaccination records through MIIC. ([information here](#)). MDH is warning that due to increased demand for records, it may take up to six weeks to process a request.
- School is back in session, and already we are seeing instances of students needing to stay home and quarantine due to exposure to positive cases. The recommendation is for schools to take a layered approach to preventing spread of COVID-19. The layers include getting vaccinated, wearing a face mask, social distancing, and getting tested. [Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- Booster shots? There have been mixed messages in recent weeks about whether people should get booster shots, and if so, when. The FDA's advisory panel will meet tomorrow to review – specifically for the Pfizer vaccine - whether a booster is needed and if it's safe. The CDC has a separate meeting next week that would focus on who should be getting the booster. At this point, we don't know what will be decided but are in communication with other health partners so that if it's determined that people should get boosters, we'll be ready to make that happen.
- Breakthrough cases – these are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in people who are fully vaccinated (i.e. 14 days past their final dose). Sadly, we recorded our first breakthrough case resulting in death earlier this month in St. Louis County. If you have questions about breakthrough cases, [this short video from MDH](#) helps explain.

Despite the increasingly negative trends we are seeing, I hope your fall is off to a good start. Remember I'm here as a resource to help with any COVID questions you may have, so feel free to reach out to me by email or phone.

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