



July 12, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

I hope you had a relaxing and fun 4th of July holiday. Likewise, I hope you are appreciating what a better place we are in now compared to last year at this time. We continue to see encouragingly low case growth in St. Louis County. In the 18 days since our last letter, we've added just 21 new cases (total 18,177). One new death has been reported (total 318).

Vaccine updates:

As of July 8, a total of 113,013 people in St. Louis County have received their first dose of a vaccine; and 107,719 people have completed their series. Our percentage of people age 16+ who have received at least one dose is now 66%.

Statewide, 3,085,718 people have gotten at least one dose. That translates into 67.4% of people age 16+. (You may have seen it reported that Minnesota has met the 70% vaccination goal – this is of people age 18+.)

Other updates/resources you may find helpful:

- The state has started the process of closing down many of its community vaccination programs. Other vaccine administrators, including St. Louis County Public Health, have also cut back on vaccine clinics due to the low demand. For anyone still interested in getting a free vaccine, [the state's vaccine locator continues to list options](#) where vaccines are being offered.
- Concern remains about variants of the virus, in particular the Delta variant, which is resulting in higher rates of severe disease and hospitalization. Though MDH is reporting that more than 99.9% of new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, regardless of strain, are in unvaccinated Minnesotans.
- Updated testing recommendations – [here's a helpful chart](#) showing who should get tested and how often or in certain circumstances.
- The rest of the videos in our Athletes vs. COVID campaign are now complete. Here's a [link to view each of the interviews](#) with well-known local athletes talking about why they chose to get vaccinated, any hesitation they had, and what convinced them that getting vaccinated was the best choice. Our thanks to John Shuster, Kara Goucher, Karson Kuhlman, Phill Drobnick, Al Sands, Curt Wiese and others for donating their time and voice to this important message.

As we move through this recovery phase of the pandemic, St. Louis County Public Health continues to scale back our COVID response efforts in order to be able to focus more on other public health priorities. At the same time, we absolutely want to maintain the valuable relationships built with community partners like you. Please know that I am here and available to serve as a resource on any COVID/vaccination questions you may have. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

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