



April 9, 2020

Dear Community Partner Organization,

This week has been particularly difficult as we've seen a large jump in the number of confirmed cases, followed by today's news of the three more deaths caused by COVID-19. This brings St. Louis County to four total thus far. We thank you for your continued partnership during this very real situation.

As a reminder, I am here as a resource for you, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Feel free to call or email if you have questions about COVID-19 or how to interpret any of the health guidelines being recommended.

A few updates for you this week:

- We've created an [online community resource guide](#) with links to a variety of services related to food and financial assistance, mental health and substance use disorder, child care and senior services, and more.
- MDH is now recommending that masks be worn in public settings. With such a shortage of masks available, here's great information from [the CDC on how to make your own](#).
- A related note for daycare providers – while MDH is saying it's optional for daycare providers to wear masks (cloth ok), it is NOT recommended for kids as effective for infection control.

Lastly, **a reminder about the importance of self-care.** During this stressful time, I want to encourage you (and feel free to share with others) to prioritize peer support and relationships. Even as we continue physical distancing, it's important to find ways to connect and support each other. One way to reduce loneliness and connect with others is to send a caring message. [Here's advice from Dr. Ursula Whiteside, our partner in Thrive Range, on the value of caring messages.](#)

I will continue to contact you at a minimum of once per week to provide the latest updates. Again, I am available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to answer questions.

Raymond Jobe
Public Health Liaison
jober@stlouiscountymn.gov
218-260-5513

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 \(CDC\)](#)
