



**April 2, 2020**

Dear Community Partner Organization,

As we move from March into April of this challenging new reality, I wanted to reach out and remind you that I am here as a resource. Feel free to call or email if you have questions about COVID-19 or how to interpret any of the health guidelines being recommended.

I'd also like to hear from you – what questions are you hearing from others? Are there common themes that we, St. Louis County Public Health, should be addressing? Any input or feedback you can provide would be much appreciated.

**A few updates for you this week:**

- We have appointed two of our Public Health team to serve as isolation/quarantine consultants. They're available to answer your questions and even do walk through tours of facilities to offer guidance. In Duluth and southern St. Louis County, call Rillis Ecklund, 218-725-5240. On the Iron Range and northern St. Louis County, call Diane Leino 218-262-6067.
- The number of confirmed cases in St. Louis County has increased to 13, and these have occurred in both urban and rural settings. Because testing remains limited, we continue to assume there are more cases throughout the county that haven't been diagnosed. Reminder: the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) provides a daily situational summary. The [MDH website is updated each day at 11 a.m.](#)
- The Public Health department continues to work in partnership with community providers, the MN Dept. of Health, hospital systems and municipalities to track and develop services and protocols related to Covid-19. These partnerships are crucial to our ability to maintain the full-time Emergency Operations Center and Covid-19 Information Line, and to provide Essential Services in our county.
- Since mass testing for COVID-19 remains a ways down the road, St. Louis County Public Health is working with health systems across the county to pull symptom data from clinic visits and televisits. Based on the data, it should provide a somewhat clearer picture of the numbers of people who likely have COVID-19 in our communities. Look for this surveillance information in these emails soon.

I will continue to contact you at a minimum of once per week to provide the latest updates, and am always available to answer questions.

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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, prevention recommendations and guidance rapidly evolves, find  
accurate, up to date information here:***

*Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>,*

*Centers for Disease Control (CDC):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>*

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