

June 24, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Twice this week we've had days with 0 new COVID cases reported. It's been nearly a year since the last time we had even one day with no case growth. Progress! In the two weeks since our last letter, we've recorded 58 cases, bringing out total to 18,156.

Unfortunately, we've also lost five more people to COVID in just the last two weeks – all in their 50s and 60s. This brings our death toll now to 317.

Vaccine updates:

As of June 22, a total of 111,671 people in St. Louis County have received their first dose of a vaccine; and 105,754 people have completed their series. Our percentage of people age 16+ who have received at least one dose is now 65%. Statewide, 66.5% are vaccinated.

Other updates/resources you may find helpful:

- In just under a week (June 30), the Governor's Executive Order 20-81 expires. This is the order requiring face coverings in childcare settings. Because children under age 12 are still not eligible to be vaccinated, MDH recommends that child care settings continue to follow prevention measures, including face coverings and physical distancing. <u>Masking Requirements for Child Care: COVID-19- Minnesota Dept. of Health (state.mn.us)</u>
- We have a <u>new interactive dashboard for COVID-19 data</u>. We've gotten rid of the various tabs that could be slow or frustrating to navigate, and now have all of the information on one easy-to-scroll page.
- We're bringing back the COVID Ref, along with a whole lot of athletes with local ties to help spread the message about the importance of getting vaccinated. <u>Here's a peak at the :30 second</u> <u>commercial</u>. We'll be following this up with longer videos from each of the athletes as they discuss why they chose to get vaccinated, any concerns they had, and why they encourage others to get vaccinated.

I hope you're finding time to relax and catch up on some well-deserved vacation time this summer. We continue to adjust our efforts to ensure we are addressing COVID-19 needs while also transitioning more and more staff back to their pre-pandemic roles in Public Health. I am still 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!

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