



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

April 8, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

We continue to see a concerning increase in new cases, and MDH shared this week that of the samples they are testing for variants, more than half are coming back positive for the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant. [Details on variants.](#)

So all the preventive measures we've talked about in the last year are still as important as ever: wear masks, social distance, avoid large gatherings, stay home if sick, and get tested. Thankfully, we can also add: and get vaccinated!

In the last week, we've added 364 new cases, bringing the total case count to 16,192. Four new deaths were announced this week, though three of those deaths occurred last fall. (We see reporting lags like this every so often.)

Now the good news: vaccine data (as of Monday, April 5) shows that 84,872 SLC residents (42%) have received their first dose of the vaccine, and 56,042 have completed their vaccination series. We continue to post open clinic slots online at stlouiscountymn.gov/vaccineregistration, but also remind people that we are just one of *many* vaccine administrators. mn.gov/covid19/vaccine shows all vaccination options in your area.

Information/resources you may find useful:

- Encountering questions/concerns about the vaccine? Attached is a handout created by the Arrowhead Regional Public Health and Tribal Health Departments that answer the questions we hear most often.
- While eligibility in Minnesota is open to anyone 16+, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for 16-17 years old. [Here's an information sheet](#) to share with parents/guardians of 16-17 year olds.
- With variants on the rise, [here are safety tips](#) if traveling to minimize chances of spreading.

Thank you for all you continue to do. As always, I'm available by phone/email Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm to help with any questions about COVID or the vaccine.

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

Looking for accurate, up to date COVID-19 information? Find it here:

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

St. Louis County COVID-19 online dashboard
