



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

May 6, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

We are again seeing a leveling off in new case growth, adding 314 new cases in the past week, for a total of 17, 568. We've had one new death reported in the last week, for a total of 302 lives lost.

Vaccine updates: The pace of people getting their first vaccination dose has slowed considerably this past week. While it's happening sooner than we want to see (To reach herd immunity, we need more people to get vaccinated!) this allows us to begin scaling back our larger vaccination clinics and shift more focus to our smaller mobile clinics to target harder to reach populations.

As of May 4, a total of 101,300 people have received their first dose of a vaccine; and 87,649 people have completed their series.

Like everyone else, we're watching to see if the Food and Drug Administration completes its review of the Pfizer vaccine for 12-15 year olds. Speculation is that this could come as early as next week. If that happens, we will be ready to begin administering the Pfizer vaccine to this new age group.

Loosening of restrictions: Significant changes are coming – including some as early as tomorrow! The Governor today announced a three-step timeline for end COVID precautionary measures currently in place. Changes beginning tomorrow (May 7) at noon relate to outdoor activities:

- Removes limits for outdoor dining, events, and other get-togethers, and ends the mask requirement outdoors except at large venues with over 500 people.
- Eliminates the state-established mandatory closing time for bars, restaurants, and food and beverage service at other places of public accommodation.

You can see the full list of changes coming – and the dates they go into effect – [at this link](#).

It's exciting and feels a little unreal to imagine we could be nearing the end of this pandemic. At the same time, we know there are many people still at risk. Please encourage those you know to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is not just about protecting the individual, it also lessens the chance that person could spread the virus to someone more vulnerable. As I know you know, It's going to take all of us to put this pandemic behind us once and for all.

Thank you for your continued partnership. As always, please reach out to me with any questions you have or are hearing about COVID or the vaccine. I'm available by phone/email Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm to help.

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