



**May 20, 2021**

Dear Community Partner,

So many changes in the last week! Following the CDC's announcement last Thursday, the state of Minnesota ended its mask mandate on Friday. [Here is the latest guidance from MDH](#) on facial covering requirements and recommendations.

New cases remain low for a second consecutive week – 163 in the last week (total 17,897). We've had two deaths reported (total 305) in the last week, though both are late-reported deaths from last December.

**Vaccine updates:**

As of May 18, a total of 105,603 people in St. Louis County have received their first dose of a vaccine; and 95,552 people have completed their series.

This is our first week vaccinating youth ages 12-15, and the demand has been very encouraging! We've been able to work with numerous school districts throughout the county to either offer vaccination clinics in the schools or at a nearby location where they could direct students. So far we've offered clinics at three districts (with a fourth sending students to one of our semi-permanent sites.) We have clinics scheduled at five other school locations tomorrow and next week.

We continue to work to address vaccine hesitancy concerns. What we are finding is that – even as vaccinate rates are slowing – there still are a lot of people who want to get vaccinated. This challenges us to make sure we are providing the information they need to get their vaccine questions, and to offer vaccinations in easy to access locations throughout the county.

If there are vaccine questions you have or are hearing from those around you, please let me know. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership! As always, I'm available by phone/email Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm.

Raymond Jobe  
Public Health Liaison  
St. Louis County  
[jober@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:jober@stlouiscountymn.gov)  
Cell: 218-260-5513

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*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\*](#)

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