



April 15, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Our rate of new cases continues to rise, even as we continue our push to vaccinate. In the last week, we've added 418 new cases. This is our largest weekly increase in more than three months, and brings our total number of confirmed cases to 16,610. Four new deaths have been reported (total 297) though two actually occurred late last fall.

Johnson & Johnson vaccine: As you've likely heard, the CDC and FDA have recommended a "pause" on administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This allows time for further review of six cases in which women developed dangerous blood clots after getting the vaccine. It's important to note that these 6 cases are out of nearly 7 million doses administered. This is the level of scrutiny these vaccines face! [More on the situation here](#). As a vaccine administrator, this has very little impact on us and our vaccination efforts. Out of more than 30,000 doses administered by SLC Public Health, only 274 were Johnson & Johnson.

Vaccination data for the county as a whole (as of Tuesday, April 13): 91,932 SLC residents (46%) have received their first dose of the vaccine, and 66,550 have completed their vaccination series. We continue to post open clinic slots online at stlouiscountymn.gov/vaccineregistration. We're also putting extra effort into making Pfizer vaccines available throughout the county, since it's the only one approved for ages 16+.

We are encouraging high school (ages 16+) and college students to get vaccinated now so they won't risk missing graduation and other late spring/summer events due to exposure and having to quarantine. Once a person is fully vaccinated (two weeks after final dose) they do *not* have to quarantine if exposed to a confirmed case. (Unless they develop symptoms.) Also important to note: vaccinated people *should* still wear masks when in public and when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households. [More details here](#).

Information/resources you may find useful:

- [Getting Past the Pandemic](#) – quick tips for people who've been vaccinated
- [Vaccines and pregnancy](#) – a good flier that answers questions we've been hearing about the safety of the vaccine

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.

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