



August 3, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

The COVID situation and accompanying recommendations are changing rapidly enough we felt it important to send you some updates.

In the last week, we've added 100 new cases (total 18,382). This puts us in the "substantial" transmission category as defined by the CDC. We've also had two new deaths reported (total 321).

Substantial transmission means that we are recommending that *everyone*, regardless of vaccination status, should again wear a face mask in indoor, public settings. [Here is our news release on this topic.](#)

Other updates/resources you should be aware of:

- As an incentive to get vaccinated, the State of Minnesota is offering a \$100 Visa gift card to any Minnesotan who gets their first dose now through August 15. Please share with staff and anyone else you know age 12+ who has not yet been vaccinated. [Details here.](#)
 - As a side note, St. Louis County Public Health will be offering vaccines at several community events this week, including two National Night Out parties, the Spirit Valley Days parade, and the St. Louis County Fair in Chisholm. [Dates, times and other details are here.](#)
- Vax to School: With school starting in 5-6 weeks, any students age 12+ who want to be fully vaccinated by the first day need to get their first dose now. (Second dose would be in three weeks, and then have maximum immunity two weeks after that.)
- New guidance for schools: [Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools for the 2021-22 School Year \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- For parents and caregivers of children 12+ with special needs, there may be extra concerns about the vaccine and the process of getting vaccinated. This new fact sheet answers a lot of those questions, and details the special accommodations that can be offered: [COVID-19 Vaccine for Youth with Special Needs or Disabilities: Information for Caregivers \(state.mn.us\)](#)
- A simple but helpful fact sheet to share: [Top Four Reasons to Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine \(state.mn.us\)](#)

As quickly as conditions have changed the last few weeks, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Please remember to take time for yourself and prioritize your mental well being. Thank you, as always, for all that you are doing. And remember I'm just a phone call or email away if you have any questions about COVID-19, the vaccines or the changing guidance and recommendations.

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