



January 28, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

Early in the pandemic, I remember hearing the analogy (as a warning to avoid burn out) that this work would be both a sprint and a marathon. Here we are 10 months into this marathon and with vaccinations in full swing, while we continue to focus on COVID testing and prevention efforts, it feels like we're sprinting now more than ever. Thank you for running alongside us!

Our COVID numbers continue to show encouraging trends: We've added 310 new cases in the last week, bringing our total of 14,088. We're also seeing a continued decline in deaths, with 7 new deaths reported in the last week.

Vaccinations continue at a slower pace than what any of us would like, but is going as quickly as we're able to get new shipments of doses. As of this past Monday in St. Louis County, 15,192 people have received their first dose of the vaccine, and 4,719 people have received their second/final dose.

Some information/resources you may find useful:

- MDH has created a [COVID-19 vaccine toolkit](#) for community and faith-based organizations to use to educate people about the vaccine and help dispel concerns. The online toolkit includes downloadable PDF documents you can print to use as handouts, suggested social media posts, and other resources. As an example, the toolkit includes this good [handout on vaccine basics](#).
- We added a [vaccine FAQ section](#) to our website. Attached to this email is a printable version that you can share with people who may not have easy access to the Internet.
- The question we hear most often is "when can I get the vaccine?" Unfortunately, the extremely limited availability means we still don't have a good answer. MDH switched to a lottery system for this weekend's vaccination clinics at nine pilot sites, including Mt. Iron. It has not been announced if they will again open registration next week, but here again is the link for more information: mn.gov/vaccine. Seniors who have a medical provider can check with their doctor to see if they can register through them. Seniors who don't have a medical provider can still [register with Essentia Health by setting up a My Chart account](#).

Lastly, the online registration for the state's vaccination lottery for people 65+ has been a good reminder that there are many people who lack internet or easy access to a computer. Any help you can provide in getting information to them is much appreciated. This includes sharing our Public Health COVID-19 information line, which they are welcome to call with any questions: 218-625-3600. (Calls are answered and returned Monday-Friday, 8-4:30)

Thanks for your continued partnership!

Aubrie Hoover, MS, RD

Learn more: [Minnesota Department of Health](#) * [The Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) * [St. Louis County online dashboard](#)