



November 19, 2020

Dear School Partner,

Did you know that 39% of our COVID-related hospitalizations have occurred in November? Put it another way – we’ve been in the pandemic for eight months, and nearly 40% of our cases requiring hospitalization have happened in less than the last three weeks. It’s no wonder our hospitals are warning of capacity concerns and new restrictions are being implemented statewide.

A quick look at our numbers: 348 new cases *just today*, bringing our total for the week to 1,506, and our total to date to 6,544. We’ve had 8 deaths in the last week. And we currently have 104 people hospitalized (50 more than last week at this time). ICU cases have also nearly doubled – 28 as of today, compared to 15 last Thursday.

Some resources/information you may find useful:

- You’ve no doubt heard that Governor Walz issued a new Executive Order that goes into effect tomorrow (Friday) at 11:59 p.m. If you’re looking for details on what all it includes, and the rationale behind it, [here’s some good information](#).
- Updates on testing opportunities:
 - The new testing site opened yesterday at the Hibbing Armory. They offer the less invasive nasal swab test (last week we mistakenly said it was a saliva test. My apologies!) Just over 350 people came to be tested on the first day. I’ve attached a flier with all of the dates, but the schedule changes week to week, so it might be more helpful to refer people [directly to the registration site](#) to find a date/time that works for them.
 - The Saliva Testing Site at the DECC is now open 7 days/week.
 - And a reminder that the [Saliva Test at Home](#) is now available state wide.
- Lastly, we are excited to introduce you to the COVID Ref! He is the star of our new public service announcement campaign and uses a lot of football metaphors to teach people (using humor and a fun approach) about proper way to wear a mask, quarantine, and safe gatherings. You can [find all the commercials here](#). Feel free to share!

We appreciate your partnership now more than ever. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me by phone or email, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to assist with any COVID-19 questions or challenges you have.

Aubrie Hoover, MS, RD

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](#)
