

HEALTH ADVISORY:

Rising COVID-19 Cases

June 6, 2022

This document will be updated as new information becomes available.

St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DPH.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

Media Contact:
Sara Dayley
Cell: 314-503-5061

TWITTER AND FACEBOOK:

@STLCOUNTYDOH

**FROM: Dr. Faisal Khan, Acting Director
St. Louis County Department of Public Health**

SUBJECT: Rising COVID-19 Cases

The purpose of this advisory is to inform the public about the current level of risk due to COVID-19 and update recommendations for protecting the health of St. Louis County residents.

The number of new COVID-19 infections has risen significantly, leading to increases in hospitalizations. St. Louis County currently has 388 new cases of COVID-19 per day. Also, St. Louis County's hospitalization rate is now 11.4 new admissions per 100,000 residents over a seven-day time period.

These increase have led the CDC to classify St. Louis County as being in the "high" level COVID-19 community levels. (To learn more about CDC's "community levels", please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>.) In acknowledgment of this increase in risk, DPH asks the public to follow the CDC's guidelines for behavior when the COVID-19 community risk level is "high":

- Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)
- If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease
 - Wear a mask that provides you with greater protection
 - Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to take other precautions (e.g., testing)
 - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease
 - consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
 - consider wearing a mask when indoors with them
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.