



The Church of St. Mary

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COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 risk continues to be a concern in Douglas County. The Delta variant now accounts for 85% of new cases in Minnesota. Douglas County as of Friday, July 30th was in the “substantial” level of community transmission. The metrics to determine transmission level uses the number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population and the percentage of cases testing positive. Douglas County had 29 active cases and 7 new cases reported as of August 3rd.

As a result of the Delta variants increased ability to spread, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new recommendations last week for fully vaccinated people. A very small number of fully vaccinated individuals have reported a breakthrough infection. In Minnesota breakthrough infections account for less than 0.1% of the population in comparison to more than 3 million doses administered. Douglas County has a 53.5% fully vaccinated rate for the population of those 12 years and older. (As of Aug. 3rd).

The CDC recommendations include:

- Fully vaccinated individuals with a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should test 3-5 days after exposure and should wear a mask for 14 days when in a public indoor setting or until they receive a negative test.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings when in areas identified as having “substantial” or “high” community transmission. As of July 30, 2021 Douglas County is considered to have “substantial” community transmission. This information and more details can be found on the CDC website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> or Horizon Public Health’s dashboard at: <https://horizonpublichealth.org/covid-19-information>.
- The CDC also recommends that fully vaccinated individuals, especially those who are immunocompromised, at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19 or have someone in their household who is immunocompromised or not fully vaccinated, consider wearing a mask regardless of the level of community transmission.

If you have not yet received your vaccine, please contact your local pharmacy, health care provider or Horizon Public Health at (320) 763-6018.