

Internal Memo

Date: July 20, 2022

To: All DOC Staff

From: Michelle Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Facilities



RE: COVID Update

We are currently experiencing an increase in COVID cases in our facilities, impacting our incarcerated population and staff. Unfortunately, there is concern that Minnesota will continue to experience COVID for the foreseeable future, including a possible surge this fall.

Given continued COVID spread, new variants, and predicted fall surge, it is possible that we may need to re-introduce stricter mitigation efforts for staff and incarcerated population. If we do increase mitigation measures in the future, please know we are not taking these decisions lightly and will be in close consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health, CDC, and state leaders.

The safety of everyone in our facilities is our top priority and we will continue to do all we can to care for and protect all who live and work in our facilities. We know everyone has endured COVID and the immense strain it has had on our lives for far too long. We will continue to try and find balance in the health and well-being of all at the MN DOC.

Please remember to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and to keep up to date on booster shots. Vaccines continue to prove very helpful in reducing the risk of severe illness/hospitalization.

This has been a far longer journey than we all anticipated and appreciate your continued efforts to protect one another.