Memo

Date: 06-21-2021

To: Incarcerated Individuals/Residents

From: Health Services

RE: Covid – 19 Vaccine Informational Update for POSTING

While currently not confirmed at our MN DOC sites, the Delta variant is suspected to become the dominant strain in the US soon.

- This raises concern, as people infected with the Delta variant carry higher viral loads and experience higher levels of hospitalization. Current data suggests, the hospitalizations are about double what we saw with B117 (B117 was confirmed in MN DOC April 2021).
- Delta variant is not as responsive to vaccine after first dose. Studies are sharing that it is just 33% protection with first dose and then jumping up to 79-80% with second dose.
- More information on J & J vaccine related to Delta variant is coming, but not yet available.
- Urgency remains for people to get fully vaccinated. The full vaccination series is important. Two doses are particularly important and highly effective (more than 90%) at preventing severe disease and hospitalization.
  - If you receive a vaccine that requires two doses, you should get your second shot as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, your second dose may be given up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose, if necessary. You should not get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.
- The vaccine reduces overall transmission and thus the chances for mutations and variants.
- If you are interested in getting your vaccine, please kite health services.
- If you did not take the 2nd dose of vaccination in a series and wish to now, please kite health services.