Agenda

• Update on the spread and impact of Delta variant

• Determining level of community spread (DOH and CDC guidance)
Spread of the Delta variant

• Viruses constantly change through mutation and slightly different forms of a virus are called variants

• Delta is a variant that is approximately twice as infectious person to person compared to the original virus
  o R-naught value: Average number of persons infected from a single case in a naïve population
    ▪ Delta variant: ~5 to 7
    ▪ Original strain: ~3
  o Highest spread happening in communities with low vaccination rates

• Best way to stop the spread of Delta in communities is to get vaccinated against COVID-19

https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/11/1026190062/covid-delta-variant-transmission-cdc-chickenpox
Impact of the Delta variant

- Delta variant has rapidly become the predominant virus

- Increase in cases from June 15 to August 10
  - +757% in US: 13,232 cases/day to 113,357
  - +646% in SD: 13 cases/day to 97

- Increasing number of breakthrough cases
  - Vast majority of breakthrough cases avoid hospitalization and death

HHS Region 8 states: South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendscases
Recommendations

- Implement layered prevention strategies based on local considerations, **level of community spread**, and COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

- Monitor COVID-19 cases in your school or district and have a plan for responding to increasing number of cases.

- CDC recommendations:
  - Promote vaccination
  - Universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status
  - Maintain 3 or more feet of physical distance between students
  - Other layers:
    - Screening testing
    - Ventilation
    - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
    - Staying home when sick and getting tested
    - Contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation
    - Cleaning and disinfection

[Source](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html)
Level of Community Spread

- SD-DOH updated levels of community spread to match CDC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator - if the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected</th>
<th>Low Transmission Blue</th>
<th>Moderate Transmission Yellow</th>
<th>Substantial Transmission Orange</th>
<th>High Transmission Red</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days</td>
<td>0-9.99</td>
<td>10-49.99</td>
<td>50-99.99</td>
<td>≥100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of NAATs(^1) that are positive during the past 7 days</td>
<td>0-4.99%</td>
<td>5-7.99%</td>
<td>8-9.99%</td>
<td>≥10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ways to monitor community spread:
  - CDC: [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)

- SD-DOH updated weekly on Monday