



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Utah Department of Health
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Deputy Director

May 4, 2021

Dear President Adams & Speaker Wilson,

I am pleased to inform you that as of today the COVID-19 thresholds established in HB294, Pandemic Emergency Power Amendments, have all been met. The state's 14-day case rate is less than 191 per 100,000 people (currently 163.4), the 7-day average COVID-19 ICU utilization is less than 15% (currently 11.2%), and more than 1,633,000 prime doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been allocated to the state (1,656,025).

Accordingly, the only remaining public health orders pertaining to COVID-19 are the [Statewide Public Health Emergency 2021-1](#) and [State Public Health Order 2021-11](#) (being issued today) which consolidates existing public health and safety measures in K-12 schools into one order. This order continues routine testing of participants in high school sports and other extracurricular activities and requires face coverings to be worn in K-12 schools, it expires on the last day of the 2020-21 school year or June 1, whichever occurs first.

I understand HB294 has been controversial. Important, legitimate arguments having been offered on all sides of the issues. But today should give all of us reason to celebrate. No matter which side someone falls on, we can all be proud of the outcomes we have achieved so far.

It's also important not to give up the ground we have gained. As the state's public health agency, we will continue to encourage Utah residents to practice individual behaviors, especially getting vaccinated, that will protect them and their communities from COVID-19.

I appreciate the time and energy your legislative bodies have contributed to the COVID-19 response in Utah. Our continued collaboration will help ensure we emerge from the pandemic as a stronger State of Utah.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Saunders

cc: Gov. Spencer J Cox
Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson
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Jennifer Robison
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Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
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