

August 4, 2021

Honorable Members of the Salt Lake County Council,

As required by Senate Bill 195, codified in relevant part at Utah Code Ann. § 26-23b-104(6)(a)(ii), this letter provides notice that the Salt Lake County Health Department is requesting an additional thirty-day extension of Salt Lake County's emergency declaration to the COVID-19 pandemic beyond the current expiration date of August 17, 2021. I ask that this request be considered during your August 17, 2021, meeting.

While we continue to utilize all available tools to combat the spread of COVID-19 through vaccinations and other collective efforts, Salt Lake County's case rate is dramatically increasing. Our 7-day case rate has increased by 133% in two weeks. Salt Lake County is now in a High Level of Transmission as defined by the State of Utah, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has moved Salt Lake County from its Substantial Transmission Level to its High Transmission Level category. As the new school year starts, we anticipate a surge in cases, resulting in additional hospitalizations for our already overburdened medical system.

Extending the emergency declaration will continue to allow activities related to Salt Lake County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible for cost recovery with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Activities eligible for cost recovery include but are not limited to Salt Lake County's operations at the Emergency Coordination Center, personal protective equipment, quarantine and isolation, testing, and vaccination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter in maintaining the safety of constituents of Salt Lake County.

Sincerely,



Angela C. Dunn, MD MPH
Executive Director