

October 8, 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 September 21, 2021. I ask that this request be considered during your October 19, 2021, meeting.

Salt Lake County continues its best efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 through vaccinations and other strategies. While the most recent data is promising, as evidenced by a moderate decrease in our current case rates and a steady increase in vaccination rates, COVID-19 continues to be a risk for all Salt Lake County residents. Salt Lake County remains in CDC's high transmission risk with 244.5 new cases per 100,000 persons in the past seven days. Although 68% of Salt Lake County vaccine-eligible residents are fully vaccinated, Salt Lake County ICUs are at capacity, with unvaccinated residents at an exponentially higher risk for hospitalization. And school-related infections are twice as high as they were this time last year.

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