November 3, 2022

Dear Public Health Partner,

Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCoHD) recognizes the powerful influence you have on your employees and in our community. We need your help to ensure that your employees and/or constituents are up to date on their COVID vaccine to help prevent serious illness.

As we enter winter respiratory illness season with RSV, influenza, and COVID all circulating in our community, it is especially important that community members be up to date on their COVID vaccines.

With the weather turning colder, people will begin gathering indoors more often and in larger numbers than previous years. We have already seen this cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in Europe, and in the last two weeks, COVID-19 cases in Utah have also been rising.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people 5 years and older receive an updated (bivalent) booster if it has been at least 2 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine.

Currently, less than 10% of Salt Lake County residents are considered up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

The updated (bivalent) vaccine targets multiple strains of COVID-19: the original strain of the virus and two of the Omicron variants, which are currently the most widespread variants in the world. In Salt Lake County, Omicron accounts for over 95% of our COVID-19 cases.

Please consider posting the enclosed flyer—available in English and Spanish—in your employee breakroom, on a community bulletin board, or in any common or high-visibility space in your building or facility. If you need additional copies, please let us know, or we are happy to also provide a PDF version for digital distribution.

Encouraging your employees and others who frequent your establishment to be vaccinated is socially responsible *and* good business: Respiratory illnesses in the workplace annually cost U.S. businesses:

* 17 million workdays
* $16.3 billion in lost earnings
* $10.4 billion in direct medical costs

Thank you for your assistance in promoting and protecting public health.

Salt Lake County Health Department

Epidemiology Bureau
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