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**From:** Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 5:49 PM  
**To:** Griffith, Jayne (MDH); Banerjee, Emily (MDH); Schommer, Michael (MDH); Medus, Carlota (MDH); Danila, Richard (MDH); Schultz, Doug (MDH)  
**Cc:** Klammer, Susan (MDH); Como-Sabetti, Kathy (MDH); Wienkes, Haley (MDH); Vilen, Kelley (MDH)  
**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

I'm good too.

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**From:** Griffith, Jayne (MDH) <jayne.griffith@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** Banerjee, Emily (MDH) <emily.banerjee@state.mn.us>; Schommer, Michael (MDH) <michael.schommer@state.mn.us>; Medus, Carlota (MDH) <carlota.medus@state.mn.us>; Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH) <cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us>; Danila, Richard (MDH) <richard.danila@state.mn.us>; Schultz, Doug (MDH) <doug.schultz@state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Klammer, Susan (MDH) <Susan.Klammer@state.mn.us>; Como-Sabetti, Kathy (MDH) <kathy.como-sabetti@state.mn.us>; Wienkes, Haley (MDH) <Haley.Wienkes@state.mn.us>; Vilen, Kelley (MDH) <kelley.vilen@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

As long as it's clear we do not know if transmission occurred during the sports activity (either practice or games).

**Jayne Griffith, MA, MPH**  
Senior Epidemiologist | Vaccine Preventable Diseases  
Phone: 651.201.5085 | Fax: 651.201.5743



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**From:** Banerjee, Emily (MDH) <[emily.banerjee@state.mn.us](mailto:emily.banerjee@state.mn.us)>  
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**Cc:** Klammer, Susan (MDH) <[Susan.Klammer@state.mn.us](mailto:Susan.Klammer@state.mn.us)>; Como-Sabetti, Kathy (MDH) <[kathy.como-sabetti@state.mn.us](mailto:kathy.como-sabetti@state.mn.us)>; Wienkes, Haley (MDH) <[Haley.Wienkes@state.mn.us](mailto:Haley.Wienkes@state.mn.us)>; Vilen, Kelley (MDH) <[kelley.vilen@state.mn.us](mailto:kelley.vilen@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

No changes needed, I just wanted to share some context for others in case there were any objections. I'm comfortable with sharing:

- 57 suspected outbreaks identified from June 1 – October 17 (high school setting) in which the cases involved had reported playing sports activities during their incubation or infectious periods.

Any objections or concerns, Cynthia/Susan/Jayne or others?

**Emily Banerjee, MPH**

Senior Epidemiologist

COVID-19 Response | Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Unit

**Minnesota Department of Health**

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**From:** Schommer, Michael (MDH) <[michael.schommer@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.schommer@state.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:32 PM

**To:** Banerjee, Emily (MDH) <[emily.banerjee@state.mn.us](mailto:emily.banerjee@state.mn.us)>; Medus, Carlota (MDH) <[carlota.medus@state.mn.us](mailto:carlota.medus@state.mn.us)>; Griffith, Jayne (MDH) <[jayne.griffith@state.mn.us](mailto:jayne.griffith@state.mn.us)>; Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH) <[cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us)>; Danila, Richard (MDH) <[richard.danila@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.danila@state.mn.us)>; Schultz, Doug (MDH) <[doug.schultz@state.mn.us](mailto:doug.schultz@state.mn.us)>

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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

OK. Doug and crew will need to get a response back to Jill by 5 so please let us know how solid this is or what changes are needed ASAP.

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**From:** Banerjee, Emily (MDH) <[emily.banerjee@state.mn.us](mailto:emily.banerjee@state.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:27 PM

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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

Hi all,

I'm assuming the other outbreaks reported below are *confirmed* outbreaks in which we are pretty confident transmission occurred in those settings (and not in another more likely setting).

- We have had 89 suspected and confirmed outbreaks in people (all ages) who have reported playing or attending sports activities during their incubation or infectious period (and do not have an obvious other source of exposure, or it is unclear); based off of specimen collection date, from June 1 – Oct 17.

- Of those 89, 57 were in the high school setting. For the outbreaks that we have classified as confirmed we are not confident publishing data on those externally yet until we get the time to rule-out other possible transmission settings.

We shared our suspect/confirmed aggregate outbreak number with the Star Tribune on 10/13; we had shared with them our aggregate number for youth sports (elementary, middle and high school-based)(51 at the time).

If we report a number of outbreaks related to high school sports (57), we would need to make sure it's clear from our end that these are suspected outbreaks in which the cases involved had reported sports activities during their incubation or infectious periods. If they insist on confirmed outbreaks only, or if they ask if we could split out suspected and confirmed, I would say we can't provide that at this time.

We just need to be careful about how it's presented since anything sports-related is being highly scrutinized right now.

**Emily Banerjee, MPH**

Senior Epidemiologist

COVID-19 Response | Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance Unit

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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

Re churches, yes. As of last Friday, 10/22 (updated numbers available end of the day tomorrow)

Table 3. Social setting outbreaks by month of event date.

Outbreaks by Setting - Monthly by Event Date								
Setting	Unknown Date	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Total number of Outbreaks	Total Number of Cases
Concert	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	43
Festival/Fair	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	54

Funeral	0	1	3	4	5	2	15	136
Social Gathering	0	6	17	28	19	0	70	583
Sporting Event	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	17
Wedding	0	2	5	21	24	10	62	570
Church	4	0	6	4	6	0	20	121
Gym	0	n/a	n/a	24	8	0	32	524
Salon	0	n/a	n/a	1	3	0	4	34
Other	0	0	2	1	4	0	7	99
Total	4	9	35	85	71	14	218	2,181

Two of the church outbreaks listed here are secondary to a large funeral outbreak. It really highlights that events amplify transmission, having consequences beyond the illnesses caused by the initial event.

**Carlota Medus, PhD, MPH**

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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

Yes, we've had outbreaks associated with HS sports where we've looked at whether transmission actually occurred (so digging into the exposure/incubation periods). There was one among football players in a weight training program (they had no social contact), and a large outbreak occurring over several weeks this summer among basketball players (mainly female, some male) who played in weekend AAU tournaments.

We have a number of other outbreaks that we haven't really been able to dig into to see if transmission occurred in sports, in social events, or a combination.

**Jayne Griffith, MA, MPH**

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**From:** Kenyon, Cynthia (MDH) <[cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us](mailto:cynthia.kenyon@state.mn.us)>  
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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

Also looping in Jayne and Emily. I know that they and Susan have been working to get data pulled together that can speak to that.

Cynthia

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**From:** Danila, Richard (MDH) <[richard.danila@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.danila@state.mn.us)>  
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**Subject:** RE: 2 quick question (I hope)

Copying Carlota on this. The question about churches is a little tricky since she may just be referring to church services, which I think we have had some. We of course have had outbreaks associated with weddings and funerals which have been held inside churches/religious settings.

Also copying Susan to elaborate in that we have had outbreaks associated with high school sports – some of which she talked about just this morning.

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**From:** Schommer, Michael (MDH) <[michael.schommer@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.schommer@state.mn.us)>  
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Anything on this?

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**From:** Burcum, Jill <[Jill.Burcum@startribune.com](mailto:Jill.Burcum@startribune.com)>  
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**Subject:** 2 quick question (I hope)

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Hi Mike,

Have there been any outbreaks in Minnesota linked to churches or high school sports? Hoping I could get an answer by end of today.

Thanks, Jill