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### Sturgis, SD - Current COVID status

Similar to the first wave of COVID infections, the Delta variant took several weeks to spread from the Nation's coastal and urban centers to finally arrive in the Upper Midwest. South Dakota experienced an increase in infection numbers beginning in late-July, and the rise continued to a peak on August 16 before trending downward. Some of the increase in positive rates can be traced to the significant increase in testing performed to proactively reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The City continues to advocate personal responsibility, encouraging those who are highly vulnerable to take enhanced safety precautions while allowing those of lower risk to determine for themselves the disruptions to their lives that is prudent for their own personal situation. This approach has resulted in a comparatively lower impact on the mental and economic state of our community while achieving a mortality rate that is currently 36% lower than the Black Hills region and 43.5% lower than the national average. There are individuals in the national media who are determined to mischaracterize the event. The safety of the event was best illustrated through the smiles on the faces of national press who enjoyed the event.

As always, the City encourages our residents, employees, national press and visitors to follow those safety measures appropriate for their personal risk profile while enjoying the hundreds of miles of pristine creation that is the Black Hills.

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