**Project Name:**

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard to Monitor Emerging Threats

**Project Description:**

Problem: The COVID-19 pandemic has strained internal resources and amplified data management issues that have been problematic in our agency. Coordination of substantial amounts of data and monitoring for new and changing elements is an ongoing issue and will need to be addressed further as resources are scaled back in the pandemic response. At present, multiple teams dedicate a significant number of staff hours each week to generate separate internal reports and dashboards on key elements of the COVID-19 response. Multiple reporting and analysis pathways not only increase the amount of time dedicated to the creation of these reports, but it also inhibits a comprehensive picture of the state of the response and increases the probability of data discrepancies between groups. We have a strong need for a robust internal dashboard to serve as a single source of truth to drive proactive and evidence-based response activities.

Approach: The Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Epidemiology and Data Unit would like to develop an internal dashboard to monitor various aspects of COVID-19, with particular focus on emerging variants, vaccine breakthrough infections, and transmission in high-risk settings. Participation in the DSTT program will build staff competency in data visualization and building interoperable systems to streamline data integration and reporting at our agency. Development of an internal dashboard will specifically support our agency in accomplishing several of the DMI goals including building capacity for rapid data analysis in order to gain real-time insights, breaking down silos to generate interoperable and accessible data for action, and shifting to more a predictive, rather than reactive, response to emerging threats from COVID-19.

One of the main focuses of the data modernization initiative, and a major goal for our agency, is improved coordination of people and systems, and this project would provide short-term favorable outcomes around data sharing and interoperability, in addition to the longer-term outcome of a more comprehensive picture of COVID-19 to improve decision-making and protect the public. The Coursera courses and peer-to-peer learning on data visualization and organization, offered as part of this program, would be extraordinarily helpful in helping us build interoperable systems to streamline data integration and timely reporting through this internal dashboard. Once we are better able to integrate elements related to transmission in high-risk settings, variants, and vaccine breakthrough to our case data we will improve identification emerging threats and be more effective with targeted mitigation efforts.

**Team Members:**

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