

# While we prepare to start...

## How to ask a question:

- Click the raise your hand button of the GoToWebinar toolbar. This will allow us to call on you and unmute your line to ask your question.
- Submit your question on the Questions tab of the GoToWebinar toolbar.
- Email [elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us).

You are now able to call in to the webinar on your phone.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to troubleshoot any audio issues you are having.



**MINNESOTA**  
**INTERAGENCY COUNCIL**  
**ON HOMELESSNESS**

**Weekly Provider Webinar:  
Statewide Updates on COVID-19 and Homelessness**

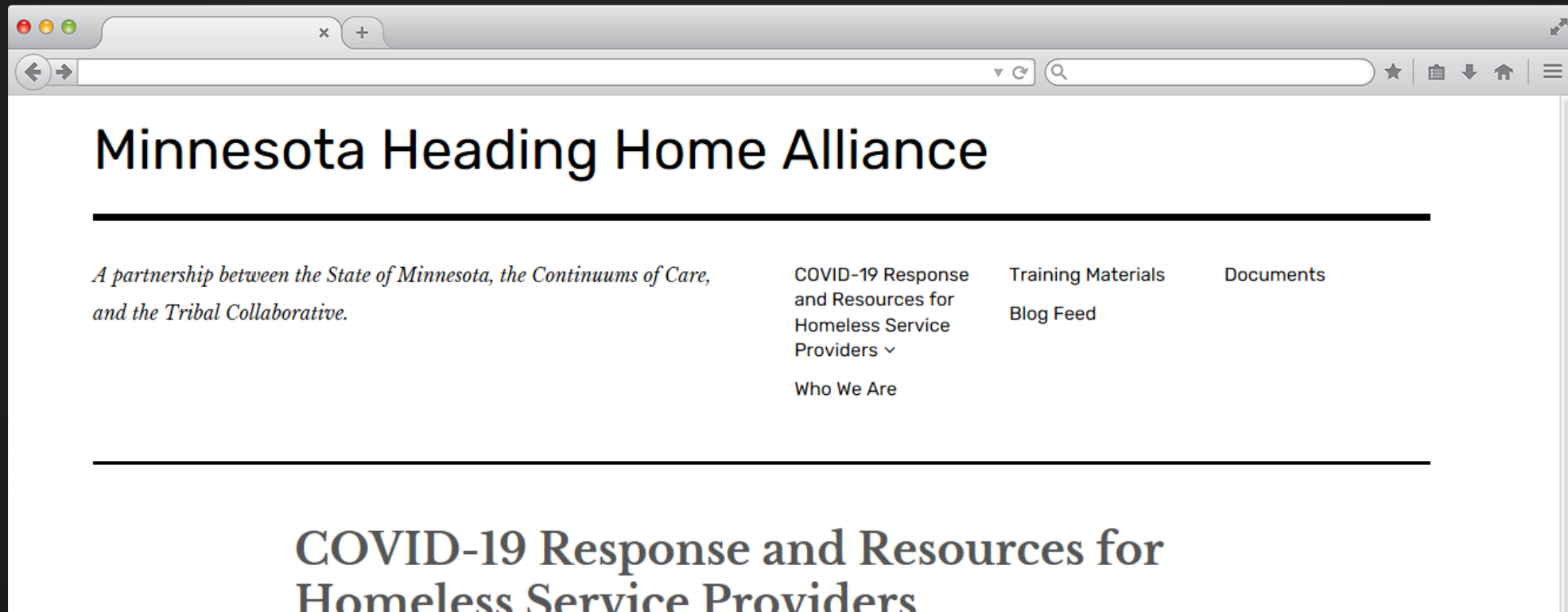
January 13, 2021

# Agenda

Time	Topic
1:00 – 1:05	Welcome and opening remarks
1:05 – 1:30	Important updates from the State of Minnesota
1:30 – 1:55	Questions and answers
1:55 – 2:00	Closing remarks and adjourn

# Visit the Heading Home Alliance COVID-19 page

- Latest resources, guidance, and contact lists
- <https://headinghomealliance.com/covid-19-response/>



# We need your help spreading the word

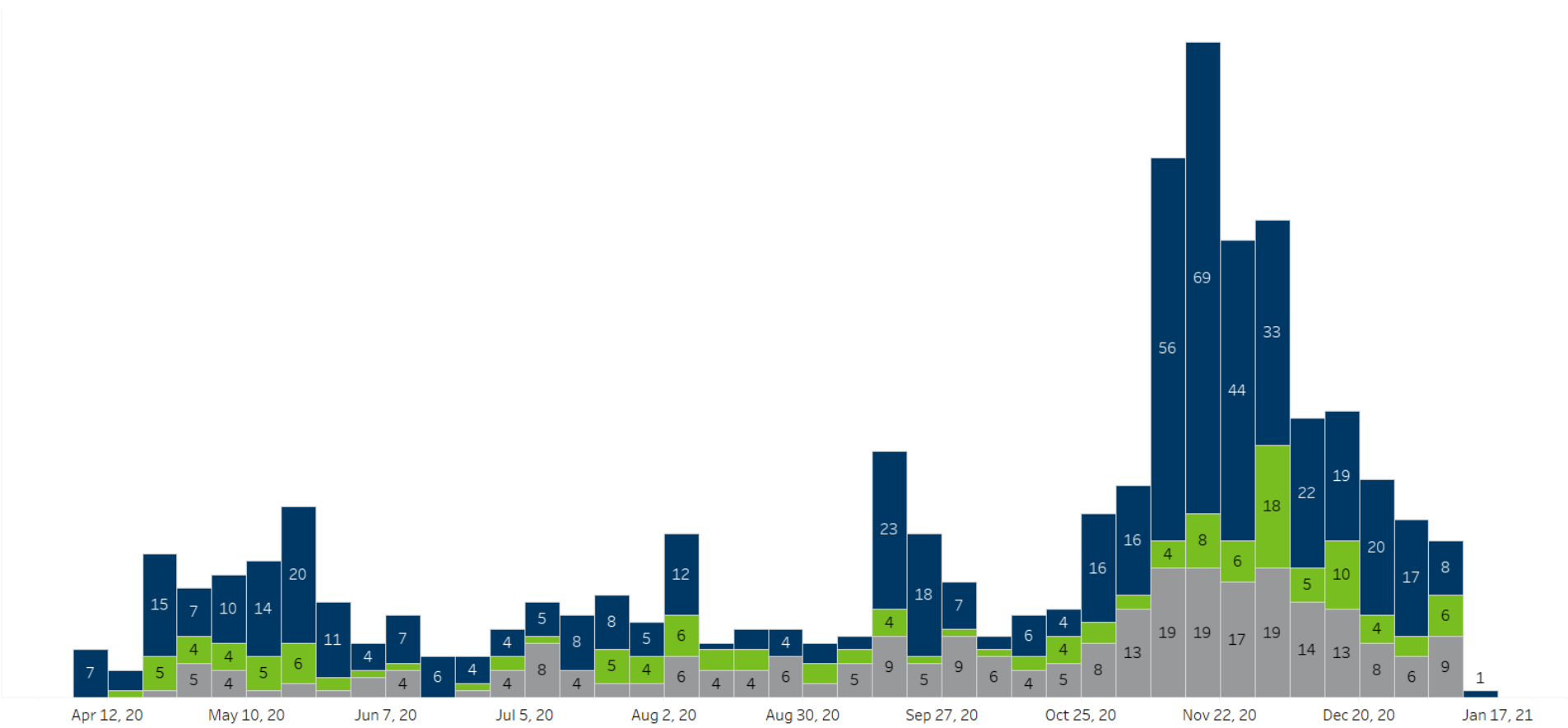
- For announcements about these calls, sign up for Minnesota Housing's eNews
- <http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/enews>
- Select "Topics and Issues for Providers Serving People Experiencing Homelessness"
- **Please encourage your colleagues to do so!**

## COVID-19 Summary of People Experiencing Homelessness and Staff in Minnesota\*

as of Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- Sheltered
- Unsheltered
- Staff

Since April 2020, 937 PEH and staff have tested positive for COVID-19.



- Physical distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene
- Symptom screening
- PPE (wear eye protection!)

# UK Strain Found in Minnesota

- 5 cases
  - Age range 15 to 37 years
  - Illness onset December 16-December 31
  - None of the 5 hospitalized (to MDH's knowledge)
  - 2 cases reported international travel



# About the UK Strain

- Detected November 2020
- Predicted to be more rapidly transmissible than other circulating strains
- No evidence that the variant causes more severe illness or increased risk of death
- Why?
- Will communicate more information as it becomes available

## Epi Lingo

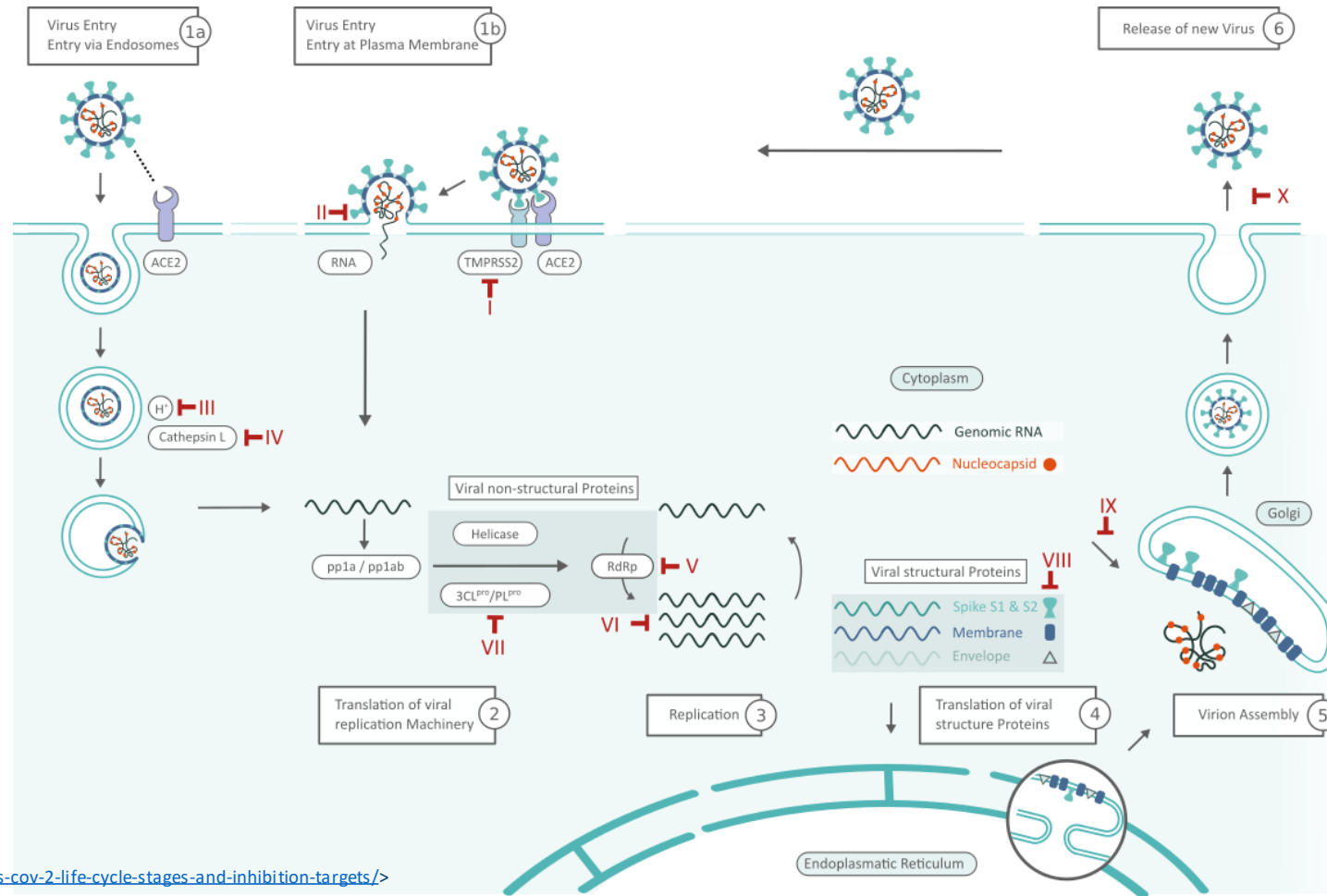
**VUI** variant under investigation  
**VOC** variant of concern

**SARS-CoV-2 202012/01 or  
B.1.1.7.**

**“Variant” “Strain” “Lineage”  
“Mutant”**

# Life Cycle of SARS-CoV-2

STAY SAFE MN

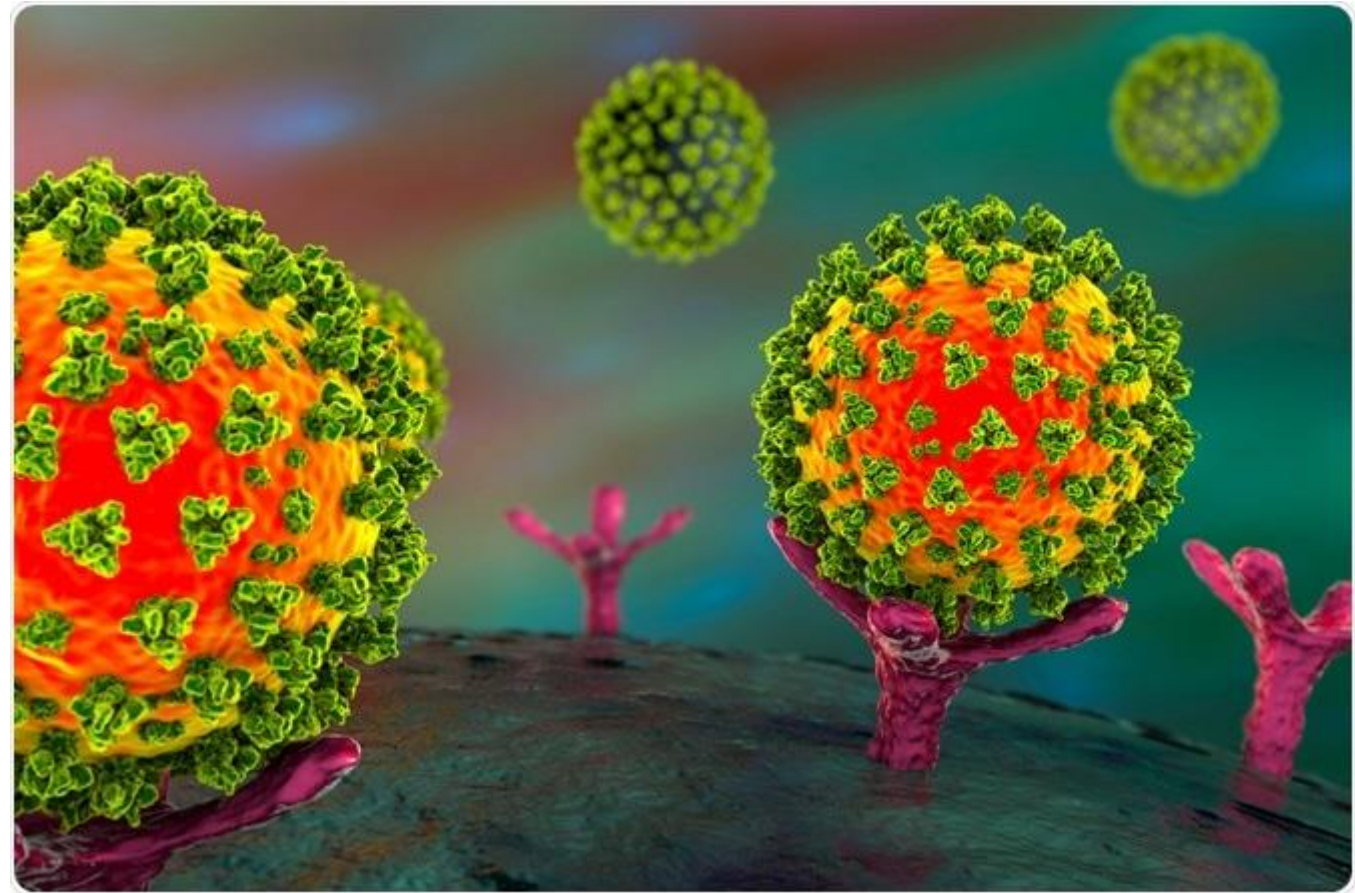


<https://www.antibodies-online.com/resources/18/5410/sars-cov-2-life-cycle-stages-and-inhibition-targets/>

# What is Different About this Variant?

STAY SAFE MN

- 14 non-synonymous mutations



# Implications

Changes we've seen:

- Ability to spread more quickly in humans.

No Evidence of:

- Ability to escape detection via testing
- More severe clinical disease
- COVID vaccines not being effective against this strain

# How do we know when variants arrive? And how will we continue to monitor?

STAY SAFE MN

- Sequencing
- NS3 Program (CDC + States)
- SPHERES Coalition

# South African Strain

- December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the South African government announced the emergence of a new strain
- Also has the N501Y mutation
- Emerged independent of B.1.1.7 (not related)



# What does this mean for shelters, settings, and service provision?

- Physical distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene
- Symptom screening
- PPE (wear eye protection!)
- Testing
- Isolation and quarantine

# Vaccine Hesitancy- Why We Need to Allow Time to Make Decisions for the COVID-19 Vaccines

- New- EUA
- Timing of shots (current/recent infection)
- Historical & current trauma
- Hesitancy is high **everywhere**
- Potential impact of mandates/incentives
- What does mandating do?



# Emergency Staffing Pool

- The Emergency Staffing Pool continues to be available to support residential programs experiencing COVID-19 related staffing shortages.
- Once approved, the staffing firm will try to place temporary employees within 48 hours. Temporary staff can be assigned to the program for up to 14 days.
- [Click here to access the online application.](#)
- If you have any questions, [visit the DHS FAQ page](#) or reach out to Elizabeth Dressel, [elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us](mailto:elizabeth.dressel@state.mn.us).

# COVID-19 Vaccine Informational Webinar

- The Safe Harbor program is hosting an informational webinar about the COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday, January 19 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- The webinar is open to all providers even if you are not a Safe Harbor grantee.
- A team from MDH will share information about the COVID-19 vaccines, how they were developed, and be available to answer your questions.
  - **Lynn Bahta, R.N., MPH, CPH** - Immunization Clinical Consultant
  - **Kathy Denman-Wilke Med** - Tribal Health Care Covid-19 Response Team
  - **Mariah Norwood, MA** - Infectious Disease American Indian Liaison
  - **Ricky Livingston** - African American Community Liaison

[Click here to register](#)

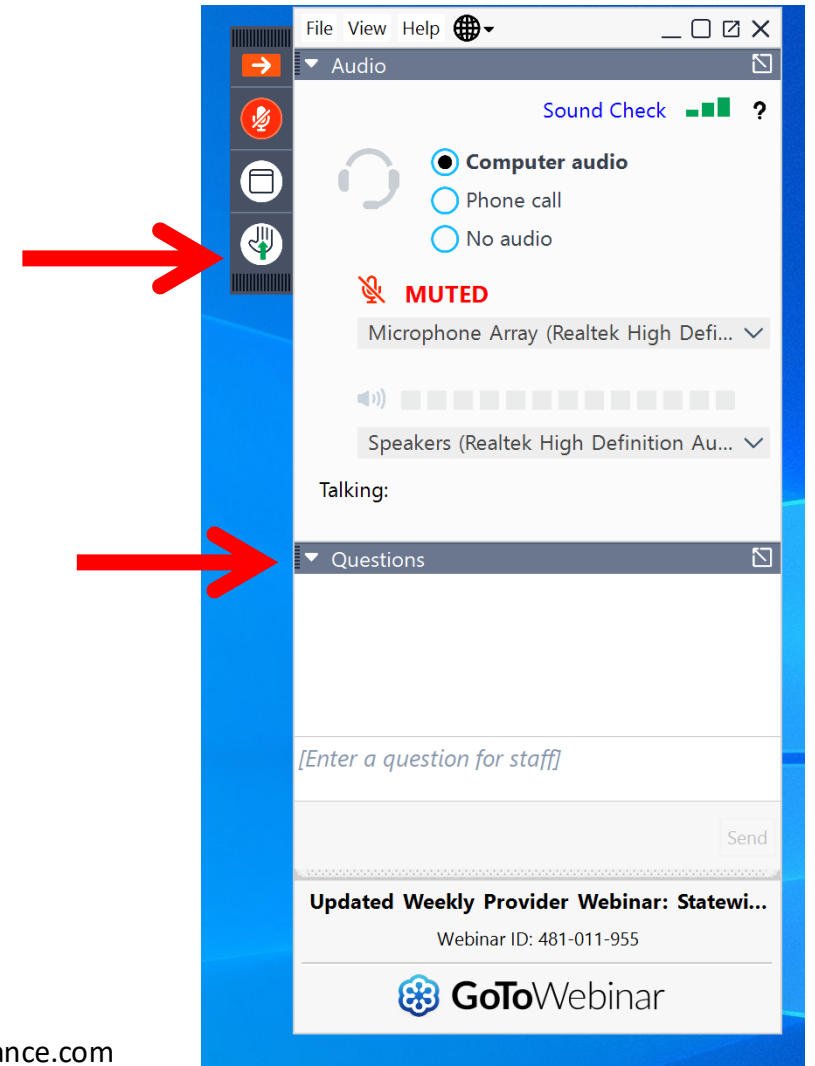
# RFP to Provide Services for Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorders

- DHS is seeking proposals to provide support services to stabilize the housing of individuals, families, youth and veterans that are experiencing housing instability due to opioid or stimulant use disorder and who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.
- The term of any resulting contract is anticipated to be, from March 1, 2021 until September 29, 2022.
- The amount of funding available is \$2 million. Funds will be distributed to SOR projects in various geographic areas of the state.

[RFP materials can be found here](#)

# Questions and answers

- We will try to get to every question we can.
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## Closing remarks and adjourn

Thank you!

# Variant Sources

- Interim: Implications of the Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variant VOC 202012/01 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/more/scientific-brief-emerging-variant.html>
- Understanding the Life Cycle of SARS-CoV-2 <https://www.antibodies-online.com/resources/18/5410/sars-cov-2-life-cycle-stages-and-inhibition-targets/>
- SARS-CoV-2 Variant Under Investigation 202012/01 has more than twofold replicative advantage <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.12.28.20248906v1>