



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One Additional COVID-19 Variant Strain of Concern Confirmed in Macon County

DECATUR, IL – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Macon County Health Department (MCHD) have identified one additional COVID-19 variant strain of concern, P.1, in Macon County through laboratory testing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), variants of concern are those in “which there is evidence of an increase in transmissibility, more severe disease (increased hospitalizations or deaths), significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or diagnostic detection failures.” Persons who test positive for any of the COVID-19 variants of concern will be directed to complete an isolation period of ten days, while their close contacts should quarantine for the full fourteen-day period, as recommended by the CDC.

Armed with this information as we continue to see an uptick in cases, we continue to urge our community to follow the public health measures intended to limit the spread of illness and the negative consequences associated with contraction of COVID-19. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least twenty seconds. If there is no access to water and soap, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol until soap and water is available. Keep at least six feet of space between yourself and others and wear a face covering in public settings. Limit in-person gatherings. Consider getting one of the three COVID-19 vaccines available.

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For more information, please contact:

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