



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Variant Strains of Concern

DECATUR, IL – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Macon County Health Department (MCHD) have identified 251 variant COVID-19 cases in Macon County. Thus far, there have been seven variants and the numbers of cases are as follows:

- 143 cases of B.1.1.7 (UK variant)
- 84 cases of P.1 (Brazil/Gamma variant)
- 10 cases of B.1.617.2 (Delta variant)
- 6 cases of B.1.429 (California variant)
- 4 cases of B.1.351 (South Africa variant)
- 3 cases of P.1.1 (Brazil/Gamma variant)
- 1 case of B.1.427 (California variant)

The data above represents information received from IDPH since April 1, 2021 when it was confirmed Macon County had two cases of variant strains of COVID-19. At this time, IDPH does not sequence every COVID-19 test for variants; therefore, the number of variant cases is likely higher. 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.”

This week the CDC updated their mask guidance. In addition to unvaccinated individuals, it is now recommended that fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Macon County falls into the substantial risk category. For more information, visit the CDC COVID Data Tracker at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

We must stay vigilant and take the proper precautions to protect ourselves and others. If you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine, please consider visiting a clinic to receive your dose(s) or contact your healthcare provider to discuss the importance of receiving the vaccine. 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. Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when appropriate. Practice safe physical/social distancing when around those outside of your household. If you are sick, please stay home.

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For more information, please contact:

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