



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Macon County Health Department  
1221 E. Condit St • Decatur, IL 62521  
(217) 423-6988 • [www.maconcountyhealth.org](http://www.maconcountyhealth.org)  
[livewell@maconchd.org](mailto:livewell@maconchd.org)



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 9, 2021**

**COVID-19 Variant Strains of Concern Confirmed and Weekly Numbers**

DECATUR, IL – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Macon County Health Department (MCHD) have identified 237 variant COVID-19 cases in Macon County. Thus far, there have been six variants and the numbers of cases are as follows:

- 141 cases of B.1.1.7 (UK variant)
- 84 cases of P.1 (Brazil variant)
- 6 cases of B.1.429 (California variant)
- 4 cases of B.1.351 (South Africa variant)
- 1 case of B.1.427 (California variant)
- 1 case of B.1.617.2 (Delta variant)

Since the MCHD's last report on July 2, there have been 31 total new COVID-19 cases reported, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 11,069 since the start of the pandemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 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.” When a person is diagnosed with one of the variants of concern, a 14-day quarantine is the recommended course of action to limit the spread of the illness further into the community. 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. Consider getting one of the three COVID-19 vaccines available.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Krystle Tempel, Health Educator  
Macon County Health Department  
[ktempel@maconchd.org](mailto:ktempel@maconchd.org)