



COVID-19 Variant Talking Points for Local Public Health Partners

Updated 07/27/2021

Viruses constantly change when they spread from person-to-person and new strains of a virus (called variants) are expected to occur.

- Many COVID-19 variants have been found in the United States and globally during this pandemic.
- Some variants are found and then they disappear quickly. Other times, new variants stick around and spread more commonly. This may occur because the variant is passed from person-to-person more easily, resistant to existing treatments, or resistant to existing vaccines.

The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) is currently the most common COVID-19 virus strain circulating around in the US, the region, and in Iowa.

- The Delta variant was originally found in India in December 2020 and was first seen in the US in March 2021.
- The Delta variant spreads more easily than other variants and that is why COVID-19 cases are increasing in the US and in Iowa.
- The CDC indicates that the currently available vaccines are effective against the Delta variant.

For those who get an mRNA vaccine, the second dose of vaccine provides a higher level of protection so it is important that people get both doses.

People who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are most at risk of getting, being hospitalized for, and dying from COVID-19.

- The **best** way to stop the spread of the of all COVID-19 virus strains, including the Delta variant, is for unvaccinated people to get vaccinated.
- If the COVID-19 virus strains continue to spread from person-to-person, new variants will continue to occur. **COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the variants that are currently circulating, so all eligible people are urged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.** Getting vaccinated protects against the current virus strains and decreases the chances of a vaccine-resistant variant developing in the future.