



July 19, 2021

Delta Variant of COVID-19 Identified in Barry County

An individual with the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant of COVID-19 has been identified in Barry County as of 7/19/2021. The individual was not vaccinated against COVID-19. The individual tested positive for COVID-19 on 7/5/2021.

At this time, Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) is urging individuals to continue to take precautions against COVID-19, especially as new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to become more prevalent. **These important precautions include:**

- Get vaccinated for COVID-19 when available and eligible. For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, this means receiving **both** doses for the vaccine to be fully effective.
- Wear a mask around others if not vaccinated.
- Stay six feet apart from others if not vaccinated.
- Wash hands often.
- Ventilate indoor spaces.

The Delta variant was first identified in India and resulted from mutations to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19. According to CDC, early findings show that the Delta variant may be associated with an increased risk of death, but more research needs to be done. Research also shows that the Delta variant may be significantly more transmissible than other variants. At this time, there is some evidence that vaccines remain effective against the Delta variant.

The first Michigan case of the Delta variant was identified in Ottawa County in June. Several other cases have been identified in Michigan since the first case was announced. Only a small percentage of COVID-19 tests are sequenced to identify the variant strain. In addition, it takes additional time to perform the genetic sequencing. Therefore, it is likely that there are additional unidentified cases of the Delta variant in Barry County at this time.

BEDHD continues to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals who work or live in Eaton or Barry counties. Vaccines are available at either BEDHD location in Charlotte or Hastings, and mobile clinics are also offered at various locations throughout the district. Vaccinations can be scheduled online through the BEDHD website, but walk-ins are also available at this time.

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