



## Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

---

Dickinson County  
818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802  
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910  
BRANCH OFFICE

Iron County  
601 Washington Ave, Iron River, MI 49935  
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950  
MAIN OFFICE

---

### News Release

Contact: Daren Deyaert  
Phone: (906) 779-7231  
Email: [ddeyaert@didhd.org](mailto:ddeyaert@didhd.org)

### Immediate Release

#### ***COVID-19 B.1.617.2 Variant Detected in Dickinson County***

Kingsford, MI- August 9, 2021- The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department was notified that genetic testing has confirmed that the B.1.617.2 variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 was detected in a positive case within Dickinson County. This variant, commonly referred to as the Delta Variant, is concerning because it is associated with increased transmissibility. Compared to the standard SARS-CoV- 2 virus, the B.1.617.2 variant is approximately 50 percent more transmissible, leading to faster spread of the virus and potentially increasing numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Ruth Manier, Director of Community Health Services states, “the presence of this particular variant is alarming because it is less responsive to our known treatment options, like monoclonal antibody treatments. There are concerns about immunity protection from vaccinations and natural immunity following a COVID infection, this could possibly mean an increase in reinfections for those who have already experienced a COVID infection.”

Additional public health efforts are required once the variant has been identified, to slow the spread within the community. Manier adds, “This is our fourth variant identified in our community. Our concerns are for the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community. We are noticing that cases being identified are in a younger population. It is important to remember that we do not understand what the long-term consequences may be of experiencing an infection.”

To protect our community, we all must continue working together to make an effort to get vaccinated and adhere to social distancing, mask-use, hand hygiene, avoiding large social gatherings, and other mitigation strategies. Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has extended vaccine eligibility to anyone over the age of 12. Adults over the age of 18 are eligible to schedule an appointment. Parents who are interested in scheduling an appointment for their 12- 17-year-old children should call DIDHD during normal business hours. For more information on COVID, please visit [didhd.org](http://didhd.org), [michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://michigan.gov/coronavirus), or [michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).

###