

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

August 11, 2021

SHAN 21-08 **Contact:** 707-784-8001 or 707-784-8005(after-hours), fax 707-429-4799 SolanoEpi@SolanoCounty.com

To: Solano County Healthcare Providers
From: Solano County Public Health

Update on SARS CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing and Reporting

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) continues to perform surveillance for SARS CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) through partnerships with private laboratories* across the state, collecting data on variant sequences from a variety of sources to assemble a picture of the different strains currently circulating in California. Variant surveillance allows scientists and public health officials to better control the spread of COVID-19 by monitoring for changes in transmission, disease severity, and effect on currently available tests, treatment modalities and vaccines. Updates on the variants of concern and the variants of interest in California are available on the CDPH Tracking Variants website which is updated weekly on Thursdays. Current variants of concern include the Alpha (B.1.1.7, first identified in the UK), Beta (B.1.351, first detected in South Africa), Gamma (P.1, first identified among travelers from Brazil), and Delta (B.1617.2, first identified in India) as well as its sub-lineages AY1 and AY2. As of August 5, 2021, the CDPH reports that a total of 90,382 samples have been sequenced in California with the Delta variant rising to become the predominant strain sequenced. 99% of all viral specimens sequenced in Solano County are now identified to be the Delta variant. Solano County continues to monitor for viral variants and requests hospitals send specimens for sequencing for patients who are critically ill with COVID-19.

* including sequencing of all positives from Kaiser Permanente of Norther California

Actions for Hospital Providers:

Report immediately by telephone and email to CDProviderHelp@SolanoCounty.com AND SolanoEpi@SolanoCounty.com

For non-Kaiser Permanente providers:

- Specimens for all ICU patients hospitalized for COVID-19 or those who die and have a COVID positive test result are requested to be sent to Solano County Public Health Lab for sequencing.

For all hospital providers:

- High-priority COVID-19 case reporting is required for the following
 1. ICU patients < 18 years old with positive COVID-19 test
 2. ICU patients who are pregnant with positive COVID-19 test
 3. All cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) regardless of COVID test result
 4. All deaths with a positive COVID-19 test
- **Include in report the Admission notes, latest Progress notes, Discharge summary/ Death note (if expired), labs and imaging**

Additional Resources:

1. CDPH Tracking Variants: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-Variants.aspx>
2. CDC COVID-19 Variant Information: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-info.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-updates%2Fvariant-surveillance%2Fvariant-info.html

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