



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Kalamazoo County Health Department Investigating Case of COVID-19 Delta Variant**

Kalamazoo, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is confirming the first case of the Delta COVID-19 variant has been identified in a case of an individual living in Kalamazoo County. At this time, public health is conducting contact tracing and disease investigation to identify close contacts and vaccination status.

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time; such changes in the virus that causes COVID-19 is known as a variant. The Delta variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants and is believed to be more contagious. This is the only known case in Kalamazoo County at this time; however, it is possible that there are more that have not been identified.

“The introduction of the Delta COVID-19 variant in Kalamazoo County underscores the importance of continued vigilance to prevent the spread of COVID-19” said Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director of Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. “Getting vaccinated remains the best defense against COVID-19. Washing your hands, maintaining physical distance when possible, and wearing a mask if you are unvaccinated or feeling unwell will provide further protection against the Delta variant of COVID-19.”

Based on available evidence, vaccines are effective in lowering your risk of severe adverse health outcomes due to the Delta variant. To date, 60.6% of Kalamazoo County residents age 12 or older have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 56.3% have completed a two-dose vaccine series. Other protective actions that prevent the spread of COVID-19 will also prevent the spread of the Delta variant. People should:

- Get vaccinated as soon as possible if they are eligible and have not done so.
- Wear a facemask when unvaccinated.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others.
- Wash hands often.
- Ventilate indoor spaces.

People who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, such as a dry cough, fever, body aches, a sudden loss of smell or taste, or fatigue should get tested by calling their primary care provider or visiting one of the testing sites in Kalamazoo County. Testing site and COVID-19 information can be found at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19).

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department



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