



Edward D. Hill
Director

Milton Teske, M.D.
Health Officer

To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 12, 2021

Contact: Kings County Department of Public Health, 559-852-4991
EMAIL: KCDPH.PIO@co.kings.ca.us

COVID-19 B.1.1.7 and B.1.429 Variants Detected in Kings County

Hanford, CA – On Monday, March 8, 2021, the Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) received confirmation of the first case of the COVID-19 B.1.1.7 variant detected in a Kings County resident. The individual is an adult and contracted COVID-19 while traveling outside of the country, and has been isolated since symptoms first presented. KCDPH will continue their contact tracing efforts to determine close contacts of this case.

The variant strain was first detected in the United Kingdom and has since spread to over 200 countries. Since December 31, 2020, 262 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been detected in California.

Additionally, the COVID-19 B.1.429 variant has also been identified by the California Department of Health (CDPH) Lab in a different Kings County resident. As of March 4, 2021, 4,076 cases of B.1.429 have been identified in California.

CDPH is requesting that providers submit specimens for whole genome sequencing from individuals with SARSCoV-2 virus infection who meet at least one the following criteria:

- Recent international travel;
- Exposure to persons with recent international travel;
- Possible re-infection (i.e., recurrence of symptoms at least 90 days after initial infection);
- Breakthrough infection after 14 days of a complete series of vaccination; or
- During a prolonged outbreak in a congregate living facility

Currently there is no indication that the vaccines or monoclonal antibody treatments are less effective on the B.1.1.7 variant, however, there is evidence that this variant may be more severe.

“As Kings County has now identified the first case of this more infectious variant of COVID-19, as well as a subsequent variant of a different strain, it is a reminder to remain vigilant as our case rates decline in Kings County. We must continue using safe practices by physical distancing, staying home when feeling sick, testing regularly, wearing a face mask, and avoiding indoor gatherings,” stated Edward Hill, Director, Kings County Department of Public Health.

Visit www.kingscovidinfo.com for current information, guidance and resources including eligibility and availability of COVID-19 vaccines.