



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2021

COVID-19 Variant B.1.1.7 Identified in Lenawee County

ADRIAN, MI – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) notified the Lenawee County Health Department (LCHD) that the MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories identified the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7 in a Lenawee County resident.

The SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 variant is thought to have emerged in the United Kingdom and has since been detected in many countries and states. This variant is concerning because it is associated with increased transmissibility. Compared to the wild-type virus, the B.1.1.7 variant is approximately 50 percent more transmissible, leading to faster spread of the virus and potentially increasing numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Therefore, additional levels of public health intervention are required once the variant has been identified. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention variant data, 6,390 B.1.1.7 cases are reported nationwide, with 616 of those from Michigan as of March 21, 2021.

Actions to protect yourself and others from the B.1.1.7 variant include:

- Wearing a mask around others.
- Staying six feet apart from others.
- Washing hands often.
- Ventilating indoor spaces.
- Getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as it is available to you.

With the high transmission rate of the B.1.1.7 variant, vaccination is more important than ever. People should get vaccinated as soon as it is offered to them. At this time, the COVID-19 vaccines appear to be effective against the variant.

COVID-19 testing is available to individuals in many locations in Lenawee County; more information at <https://www.lenawee.mi.us/931/COVID-19-Case-Testing-Information> . Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, sore

throat, body aches, shortness of breath, had recent travel history or have potentially been exposed, should seek testing

For more information, visit www.lenawee.mi.us or www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

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The mission of the Lenawee County Health Department is to promote a safe and healthy environment.