

Delta variant Q&A and statement below.

- **What is the Delta variant and what makes this variant different from the other variants?**
 - Viruses constantly change through mutation. A variant has one or more mutations that differentiate it from other variants in circulation. As expected, multiple variants of SARS-CoV-2 have been documented in the United States and globally throughout this pandemic. The Delta variant was first identified in India. It is currently classified as a “variant of concern” in the United States.
- **Will they change the vaccine to address this variant?**
 - COVID-19 vaccines provide excellent protection from serious disease, even for the Delta variant.
- **I am vaccinated, do I need to be concerned about the Delta variant/what is my protection against the Delta variant?**
 - COVID-19 vaccines provide excellent protection from serious disease, even for the Delta variant.
- **LA County is now requiring everyone wear masks indoors again, will this become a requirement statewide?**
 - ** In alignment with the CDC recommendations, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its Guidance for Face Coverings, recommending mask use for indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. Under this guidance, businesses have the option of requiring all customers to wear a mask, even if they’re already vaccinated, and local health jurisdictions may impose stricter guidance or provide additional recommendations as a result of local conditions.
- **Is everyone who tests positive being tested for the Delta variant and will I be informed if I have it?**
 - Not every specimen that tests positive for COVID-19 has further testing to determine the strain. This strain testing is done for public health purposes and the specific strain does not impact the care of an individual patient. Under federal laboratory regulations most laboratories cannot legally report information about the strain back to the patient.

Dr. Tomás Aragón, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Statement:

“The risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection will remain in California until we reach community immunity with vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccines provide excellent protection from serious disease, even for the Delta variant. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free.”

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** Dr. Aragón: “The Delta variant has caused a sharp increase in hospitalizations and case rates across the state. We are recommending masking in indoor public places to slow the spread while we continue efforts to get more Californians vaccinated.”

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The California Department of Public Health is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and its variants across our state. Currently, the Delta variant accounts for approximately ** 82.8 percent of cases sampled in California, and we anticipate this percentage will increase. The most important thing we can do to stop the spread of COVID-19 is ensure everyone who is eligible gets vaccinated.