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



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Omicron Variant Identified in Kings County

Hanford, CA – Public Health officials received notification of the first COVID-19 Omicron variant cases among Kings County residents. Four Omicron variant cases were identified through whole genome sequencing. Whole genome sequencing is a laboratory method that is completed to determine the variant of a positive COVID-19 test. Public Health staff are currently conducting case investigation and contact tracing efforts to determine how these individuals contracted the Omicron variant.

“We want to stress the importance of protecting yourselves, your loved ones, and your community during these times, especially with the Holiday season among us, which includes practicing safe measures while gathering with family and friends,” said Heather Silva, Assistant Director for the Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH). “The best tools against COVID-19 are vaccination, masking, and isolating at home when you’re sick.”

KCDPH officials continue to stress the importance of wearing a face covering when indoors in public buildings or businesses and when outdoors in crowds where physical distancing is not possible. For those that consider themselves to be at high risk for illness from COVID-19, precautions should be taken and wearing a face covering when in any public settings should be considered.

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be available for Kings County residents five and older, and appointments are available at www.vaccines.gov or <https://myturn.ca.gov/>, or by calling (833) 422-4255.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should contact their health care provider to get tested and immediately isolate themselves to protect others until cleared. Residents are urged to get vaccinated and continue practicing physical distancing, washing hands frequently, and wearing face coverings. Additionally, it is extremely important to speak with contact tracing representatives from KCDPH when contacted, helping to limit the spread of the very infectious COVID-19 variants.