



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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First Detection of Brazil COVID-19 Variant P.1 in the Health District.

Burwell, NE- Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) has received notification that an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 has tested positive with the Brazil variant, P.1. This is the first of this variant found within LBPHD's nine counties. The P.1 variant has been spreading throughout the states is more contagious. The confirmatory and variant testing was performed at the Nebraska Public Health Lab.

The person infected with the variant virus is an adult who resides in Howard County. The individual was fully vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine and was not hospitalized due to symptoms. Contact tracing has identified close contacts in the household, but no other community exposures were identified. Public health isolation, quarantine and testing guidance was followed. As a result, there is not believed to be risk to the community from this new variant.

Anybody who experiences new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested. According to the CDC website there have been 497 reported P.1 variant cases in the United States. The COVID-19 vaccines have shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 from this variant, it is still possible to contract COVID-19 but it does help decrease your chances at experiencing severe symptoms or being hospitalized.

Loup Basin Public Health Department offers, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines for those who are 12+ on Tuesdays and Fridays. Walk-ins are welcomed or you can call 308-346-5795 to schedule your appointment.

If you have questions/concerns about a possible exposure, please call LBPHD at 308-346-5795.

For more information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Infection about new COVID-19 variants, please visit cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html.