

HEALTH ALERT: COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

Jan. 6, 2020

Background

The United States and Texas are experiencing widespread transmission of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19. This alert provides information on variant strains of COVID-19, and requests health care providers to reporting post-vaccination COVID-19 infections. This alert also provides guidance on disease reporting.

Surveillance for Variant Strains of SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Multiple COVID-19 variants are circulating globally. In the United Kingdom (UK), a new variant has emerged with an unusually large number of mutations. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants. Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death. This variant was first detected in September 2020 and is now highly prevalent in London and southeast England. It has since been detected in numerous countries around the world, including the United States and Canada.

In South Africa, another variant has emerged independently of the variant detected in the UK. This variant, originally detected in early October, shares some mutations with the variant detected in the UK. There have been cases caused by this variant outside of South Africa. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants. Currently, there is no evidence that it causes more severe illness or increased risk of death.

If you suspect an individual has an unusual presentation or travel history, please contact Metro Health at **(210) 207-8876** to coordinate specimen submission for genotyping.

Reporting of COVID Infection after Full Vaccination

Providers are asked to report to Metro Health any cases where COVID infection occurs more than two weeks after receiving the two-dose vaccine series. PCR testing is recommended for individuals that have been vaccinated against COVID.

For questions or to report a suspected case, please contact:

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Epidemiology Program
Phone: (210) 207-8876
Fax: (210) 207-8807