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## **Delta Variant Identified in Stanislaus County**

*Public Health Encourages Community Members to Vaccinate as California Reopens*

**STANISLAUS COUNTY** - A [variant of interest](#), the Delta Variant (previously known as B.1.617.2), has been identified in Stanislaus County. This variant was first identified in India in December 2020. As California lifts many restrictions on June 15th, Stanislaus County Public Health reminds community members to get vaccinated and follow the [Beyond the Blueprint Framework](#).

“We have come a long way in this pandemic and our communities’ commendable efforts in getting us here make it possible for us to move beyond the blueprint and start returning to normalcy. We may all be done with COVID-19 and the associated measures, but the COVID-19 pandemic is not over,” said Dr. Julie Vaishampayan, Stanislaus County Public Health Officer. “We ask our community to stay committed to overall health and well-being of our community and get vaccinated.”

For those not eligible to get the vaccine, such as children under the age of 12, having community protection in the form of high vaccination rates is important. Vaccination is an effective and proven tool to aid in the reduction of illness and disease. Currently, 39% of eligible residents in Stanislaus County are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, meaning they have received both doses in a two-dose series or a single dose vaccine. The remaining public health safety measures of appropriate masking remain important to protect those who are unvaccinated.

Per the State's guidance, masks will not be required for fully vaccinated individuals, except in the following settings where masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- On public transit such as airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, subways, buses, taxis, and ride-shares. Mask will also be required at transportation hubs such as airports, bus terminals, train stations, or any other area that provides transportation
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, day camps and other youth settings. This requirement may change as updated K-12 schools’ guidance is forthcoming
- Healthcare settings, including long term care facilities
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Homeless shelters, emergency shelters and cooling centers

Masks will be required for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses such as retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, state and local government offices serving the public.

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With the higher transmission rate of the variants, getting vaccinated is crucial to stay safe and fully protected against COVID-19. Vaccines continue to be the most effective way to return to normal activities. Vaccines are available by appointments or walk-ins. Community members are encouraged to visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or call 1-833-540-0473 to find the nearest vaccination site, if they choose to make an appointment. Vaccines are available to individuals aged 12 and over by appointment or walk-in. They are always free and open to those who live and work in Stanislaus County regardless of immigration status. For more information on mobile clinics and other mass vaccination clinic sites, please visit [www.schsa.org/coronavirus/](https://www.schsa.org/coronavirus/).