



## Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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### News Release

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### Immediate Release

#### COVID-19 B.1.1.7 Variant Detected in Dickinson County

Kingsford, MI- April 5, 2021- The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department was notified today that genetic testing has confirmed that the B.1.1.7 variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 was detected in a positive case within Dickinson County. This variant is concerning because it is associated with increased transmissibility. Compared to the standard SARS-CoV- 2 virus, the B.1.1.7 variant is approximately 50 percent more transmissible, leading to faster spread of the virus and potentially increasing numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Therefore, additional public health efforts are required once the variant has been identified, to slow the spread within the community.

To protect our community, we all must continue working together to make an effort to get vaccinated and adhere to social distancing, mask-use, hand hygiene and other mitigation strategies. Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has extended vaccine eligibility to anyone over the age of 16. Adults over the age of 18 are eligible to schedule an appointment. Parents who are interested in scheduling an appointment for their 16- and 17-year-old children should call DIDHD during normal business hours. For more information on the COVID, please visit [didhd.org](http://didhd.org), [michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://michigan.gov/coronavirus), or [michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).

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