



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### CDC: TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

CUMBERLAND, MD – On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new masking guidelines in the wake of the rapid rise in cases of the COVID-19 delta variant. The new guidance includes recommendations that everyone – including fully vaccinated individuals – wear a mask in public indoor settings to prevent the spread of the virus. “People who decline to be vaccinated are essentially choosing to be naturally infected with COVID-19 instead,” said Jennifer Corder, MD, Deputy Health Officer for Garrett and Allegany Counties. “COVID-19 is not going anywhere, and is more easily transmissible than ever. Choose the safer way to develop immunity. Choose to be vaccinated.”

### TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 AND DELTA VARIANT

1. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death; it also helps reduce the spread of the virus in communities.
  - Unvaccinated individuals should get vaccinated and continue masking until they are fully vaccinated.
  - With the Delta variant, this is more urgent than ever. The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates
2. Data show Delta is different than past versions of the virus: it is much more contagious.
  - Some vaccinated people can get Delta in a breakthrough infection and may be contagious.
  - Even so, vaccinated individuals represent a very small amount of transmission occurring around the country.
  - Virtually all hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.
3. In areas with substantial and high transmission, CDC recommends that everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent spread of Delta and protect others.
4. CDC recommends that community leaders encourage vaccination and masking to prevent further outbreaks in areas of substantial and high transmission.
5. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

The Allegany County Health Department reports that 40.6% of all Allegany County residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 compared to 58.7% of all Marylanders.

### Allegany County COVID-19 Case Statistics as of July 27:

- New COVID Cases: 4 (cumulative total 7,092)
- Additional Deaths: 0 (cumulative total 212)
- Cases Per 100,000 Population: 2.84 (Maryland: 5.19)
- Positivity Rate: 1.52 % (Maryland: 2.45%)

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