



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF KENT

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STATE OF MARYLAND

Kent's Community Transmission Upgraded to HIGH: Vaccinations and Indoor Mask Wearing are Urged

August 16, 2021- Kent County's COVID-19 Community Transmission rate has been upgraded to 'HIGH'. This follows a national trend as COVID-19 cases are rapidly increasing across the country, especially in areas with low vaccination. This surge is being driven by Delta, a highly contagious variant of the virus that causes COVID-19.

As illustrated by CDC's [COVID Data Tracker](#), the 7-day moving average of daily new cases for Kent County is up almost 85% since the previous week. Across the U.S., rates are up over 882% since the recorded low during mid-June. "Many thought we were out of the woods," stated Bill Webb, Health Officer. "People might be done talking about COVID-19, but the pandemic is far from over. I will say this loud and clear- If you aren't vaccinated, do it now. The vaccines are highly effective at preventing serious illness and death. And regardless if you have been vaccinated, everyone should wear a mask in public while we have high community transmission. The Delta variant is much more contagious than COVID-19 as we originally knew it, and even fully vaccinated people can spread the virus. I implore everyone to take this seriously to protect themselves, their loved ones, and our Kent County community."

Actions you should take:

- **Wear a mask in all public indoor settings regardless of your vaccination status** for ages 2+ while community transmission remains [substantial or high](#). Vaccines provide strong protection against the Delta variant, but vaccinated individuals can still spread the virus to others.
- **Get fully vaccinated.** All vaccines are safe, effective, free and readily available in Maryland. Appointments are available through the Kent County Health Department at kenthd.org or by calling 410-778-1350. You can also schedule through pharmacies, clinics, and other sites in Maryland by visiting <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>, texting your ZIP code to 438829, or calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX.
- **Get Tested.** Everyone who has COVID-19 [symptoms](#) or who has been exposed should get tested. If you have been around someone with a confirmed case of COVID, get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if you have no symptoms and/or you have already been vaccinated. Call the Kent County Health Department at 410-778-1350 to schedule a test or visit [MD's testing site locator](#).

Kent County Health Department <https://kenthd.org>

Maryland Department of Health <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://cdc.gov/coronavirus>