



**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# St. Joseph County Department of Health

*"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"*

**Robert M. Einterz, MD**  
Health Officer

**Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH**  
Deputy Health Officer

**Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH**  
President, Board of Health

**Jason Marker, MD**  
Vice President, Board of Health

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 11, 2021**

**CONTACT: Jenny Parcell**  
**(574) 235-9573**

## **COVID-19 B.1.1.7 Variant Identified in St. Joseph County**

St. Joseph County- A case of COVID-19 caused by the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant has been identified in St. Joseph County. Under guidance from the Indiana Department of Health, there is ongoing surveillance testing of positive COVID-19 samples in Indiana. This surveillance effort is intended to provide insight into the proportion of cases caused by a variant strain. There is no difference in the clinical treatment or mitigation strategies recommended. All of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States have demonstrated efficacy against the B.1.1.7 variant.

Vaccine uptake will be crucial in limiting the impact of COVID-19 variants. For current eligibility, please visit [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) as eligibility is rapidly expanding.

With this identification, the St. Joseph County Department of Health urges the continuation of the following actions, even after vaccination:

- **Wear a facial covering (should fit snugly over the mouth and nose) anytime you are around people not in your household.**
- **Practice extreme physical distancing.**
  - Maintain at least 6ft between individuals.
  - Wearing a mask does NOT eliminate the need for physical distancing.
- **Practice frequent and proper hand hygiene & cough etiquette.**
  - Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap & water; coughing and sneezing into your sleeve.
- **Stay home if ill.**
- **Limit indoor social gatherings to fewer than ten people.**
- **Get the COVID-19 vaccine when you are eligible.**

For all COVID-19 testing sites in St. Joseph County, you can view an interactive map at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>. Please be aware each site may have different criteria for testing and may not be up to date.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Indiana State Department of Health at [www.in.gov/isdh](http://www.in.gov/isdh) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). For general questions as it relates to COVID-19 infection, please call 2-1-1.

###

227 W. Jefferson Blvd. | 8th Fl. | South Bend, IN 46601  
P: (574) 235-9750 | F: (574) 235-9960