

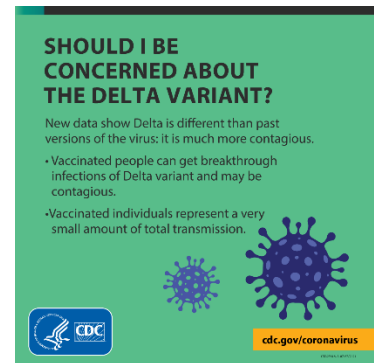
Delta Variant Update Communication Tools

On Tuesday, July 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention distributed new key messages/talking points and images to be used in educating providers and the public about the Delta variant of COVID 19.

The following is provided by the Centers for Disease Control, July 27, 2021

The emerging evidence about the Delta variant demonstrates it is more formidable than the original (wildtype) virus.

- Delta spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another, compared with earlier strains.
- Delta has most recently surged to become the predominant variant –from <1% in May to over 80% of cases in July.
- Delta is causing some “vaccine breakthrough infections,” meaning infections in fully vaccinated people, than other strains have.



But, even so:

- Most breakthrough infections are mild.
- Vaccines are working as they should—they are preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.
- New data show that people infected with Delta have higher viral loads—meaning more virus in their body—than with previous variants.
- In contrast to the Alpha strain, new data show that fully vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant might be infectious and might potentially spread the virus to others.

Top Five Things To Know About The 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.