

What You Need to Know About the Delta Variant of COVID-19

Viruses change all the time—this is normal and expected. When a virus changes, the new version is called a variant. There are now many variants of the virus that causes COVID-19. **Some variants, like the Delta variant, are more concerning than others.**

What We Know

- Most COVID-19 cases in Rhode Island are now the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of the virus.
- The Delta variant is much more aggressive than other variants we've seen because it spreads more easily and more quickly and may cause more serious illness among people of all ages, including young people.
- Some vaccinated people can get the Delta variant of COVID-19, but most hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.

What We Can Do

- Data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines help protect you against the Delta variant.
 - Unvaccinated people are most at risk of getting and spreading the Delta variant.
 - [Getting vaccinated](#), [wearing a mask](#), and weekly [testing](#) are more important than ever to stop the variant from spreading and to protect the progress we've made.
 - Vaccination reduces the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death from the Delta variant. Find a vaccine near you at C19VaccineRI.org.
- Whether or not you're fully vaccinated, get tested right away if you get symptoms of COVID-19, even if you think it's just a cold or allergies.
- [Treatment with MABS](#) can keep you from getting sicker from the Delta variant.
 - Monoclonal antibody (MABS) treatment is a doctor-recommended treatment for people age 12 or older who test positive for COVID-19. It's fast, easy, and highly effective. It also helps keep you from getting sicker and being hospitalized. Learn more at covid.ri.gov/treatment.

- To follow variant tracking in Rhode Island, visit covid.ri.gov/data
- To learn more about COVID-19 variants, visit covid.ri.gov/variants

8/27/2021