## Maintaining Safety to Prevent COVID-19 Infection

Viruses constantly change through mutation and sometimes new variants or strains of a virus appear. There are different variants of the COVID-19 virus.

All have been found in the U.S. as well as across the world during the pandemic.

Think about the COVID-19 virus like a tree that is growing and branching out. Each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others.

Some variations allow COVID-19 to spread more easily or makes it resistant to treatments or vaccines.

The U.S. is monitoring 4 COVID-19 variants:

These variants
spread **more easily & quickly,** often
leading to **more cases** of
COVID-19.

1 Alpha Dec 2020 Delta spreads more easily. People are more contagious.

2 Beta Jan 2021 Delta Mar 2021 50% more contagious

3 Gamma Jan 2021 Most strain dominant strain in the U.S. so far.



COVID-19 & these variants continue to spread in the U.S.

Take steps to protect yourself from the COVID-19 virus.

can spread it to 3-4 other people vs. 1-2 others with the fire

1-2 others with the first COVID-19 strain.

**COVID-19 Delta** 

Get Vaccinated!

Studies suggest that the vaccines currently authorized work to prevent COVID-19 variants.



Take steps NOW to protect yourself from the COVID-19 virus.

Get vaccinated!
Staff members can help to find a location near you.





Continue to protect yourself & others from COVID-19! IF YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED - ALWAYS:

- 1. Wear a mask covering your NOSE & MOUTH.
- 2. Stay 6-feet apart from others who do not live with you.
- 3. Avoid crowds & poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- 4. WASH YOUR HANDS with soap & water.
- 5. Use hand sanitizer in between washing hands.



If you choose <u>not</u> to get the COVID-19 vaccine,

you continue to be at highest risk for COVID-19 infection.

It is ESSENTIAL that you maintain precautions to protect yourself & others.

