



# DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

Alcona County

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Iosco County

420 W. Lake Street

Tawas City, MI 48764

Tel: 989-362-6183

Ogemaw County

630 Progress St.

West Branch, MI 48661

Tel: 989-345-5020

Oscoda County

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Mio, MI 48647

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### COVID-19 Delta Variant Identified in Iosco and Ogemaw Counties

The District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) has been notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) of an unvaccinated female identified with the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of COVID-19 in Iosco County and of an unvaccinated male identified with the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of COVID-19 in Ogemaw County.

Only a small percentage of COVID-19 positive test samples are sent on for genetic sequencing to identify any variant strains. Therefore, it is likely there are more unidentified cases of the delta variant in Iosco and Ogemaw counties, and the greater DHD2 jurisdiction. “The Delta variant is more contagious than previous versions of COVID-19 and by the time it has been identified, an infected individual may have already exposed many more people,” said Dr. Mark Hamed, DHD2 Medical Director. Hamed continued, “With more than 80% of new cases being a highly contagious COVID-19 variant, vaccination is more important than ever. Current COVID-19 vaccines show effectiveness against these variants and reduce the risk of serious illness that may lead to hospitalization or death.”

Continue practicing mitigation strategies to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and its variants, including delta. These strategies include:

- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Wearing a mask around others in crowded indoor or outdoor areas, especially in counties with substantial and high community transmission
- Staying six feet apart from others
- Washing hands often
- Staying home when you feel ill. Get tested if you have symptoms
- Ventilating indoor spaces

COVID-19 vaccines are offered at DHD2 and locations throughout the County. To find a vaccine clinic near you, visit <https://www.dhd2.org/vaccine-information> or [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)