County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000   FAX: (831) 454-4488   TDD: Call 711

Public Health Division

Press Release

For Release:	**Immediately**	**Contact:**	Jason Hoppin, County Communications Officer
Date:	**June 29, 2021**	**Phone:**	(831) 454-3401

DELTA VARIANT IDENTIFIED IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz County Public Health has been notified that a COVID-19 sample collected locally on June 10, 2021 has been identified as having the mutation known as the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant.

The Delta variant is on track to become the dominant strain in the U.S. and represents 14.5 percent of all California cases. The variant is highly transmissible, and more resistant to monoclonal antibody treatment.

The patient is a male in their 50s, who experienced mild symptoms. A case investigation is underway; however, it is very likely there are additional undetected cases of the Delta variant within Santa Cruz County.

Complete vaccination is highly effective against the Delta variant. Santa Cruz County Public Health urges everyone who is not vaccinated to do so immediately. Individuals 12 and older are eligible to be vaccinated and doing so helps protect children who are not yet eligible to receive a vaccine. Vaccines help prevent infection and, in the case of breakthrough cases, reduce symptoms and hospitalizations. If you have missed your second shot of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines it is imperative that you complete your vaccination now; partial vaccination has much lower effectiveness against the Delta variant.

"With the reopening of the economy and slowing vaccination rates, the introduction of a highly transmissible variant creates an especially worrisome situation," Santa Cruz County Deputy Health Officer Dr. David Ghilarducci said. "For those who are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated, your risk of serious illness is becoming more likely. The best way to reduce the risk for everyone – including residents not yet eligible to be vaccinated -- is to seek a vaccine as soon as possible."

A list of vaccine local COVID-19 vaccine providers is available at:

- https://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine (English)
- https://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvacuna (Spanish)

Residents may also visit www.vaccinefinder.org. Employers wishing to set up a no-cost vaccination clinic for their staff may email hsac19vaccineclinics@santacruzcounty.us.

Public Health
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Santa Cruz County