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1/19/2022 NCDHD COVID-19 Omicron Update
Public Service Announcement

Omicron Variant Is Detected in North Central District Health Department (NCDHD).

The Omicron COVID-19 variant has been confirmed in NCDHD district through laboratory testing. Although the variant seems to cause milder symptoms, this variant has the potential to infect many more people than other COVID-19 variants, and thus can create increasing problems throughout our communities. NCDHD has seen this firsthand as NCDHD is recording new pandemic highs for case-rate/week, likely due to Omicron's new presence in our district. NCDHD is expecting case-rates to continue to increase as a result for next several weeks.

We have the tools to fight Omicron. Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging. Masks offer protection against all variants. Testing can tell you if you are currently infected with COVID-19. Get your FREE at-home Rapid Antigen test to have on hand by ordering at covidtests.gov. Until we know more about the risk of Omicron, it is important to use all tools available to protect yourself and others.

The good news is that Nebraska data is showing being fully vaccinated and boosted is helping to prevent severe illness and hospitalization. Unvaccinated individuals are 8 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than fully vaccinated individuals and 36 times more likely to be hospitalized than those fully vaccinated AND boosted. Visit NCDHD's website ncdhd.ne.gov to view NCDHD's COVID-19 vaccine schedule or contact your local clinic/hospital for their COVID-19 vaccine schedule. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) acting State Epidemiologist Dr. Matthew Donahue states, "The identification of omicron reinforces the urgency for Nebraskans to get vaccinated. The more Nebraskans are vaccinated, the less opportunity new SARS-CoV-2 variants will have to take hold in the state... We are doing our part to find new variants when they emerge and arrive in the state, older Nebraskans have done their part in getting vaccinated at high rates; we need younger Nebraskans to keep stepping up to protect themselves and each other by choosing to get vaccinated."