



**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# St. Joseph County Department of Health

*"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"*

Robert M. Einterz, MD  
Health Officer

Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH  
Deputy Health Officer

Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH  
President, Board of Health

Jason Marker, MD  
Vice President, Board of Health

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Jenny Parcell**  
**(574) 235-9573**

## **COVID-19 B.1427 Variant Identified in St. Joseph County**

St. Joseph County- A case of COVID-19 caused by the B.1427 (California) variant has been identified in St. Joseph County. Under guidance from the Indiana Department of Health, there is ongoing surveillance testing of positive COVID-19 samples in Indiana. This surveillance effort is intended to provide insight into the proportion of cases caused by a variant strain. There is no difference in the clinical treatment or mitigation strategies recommended.

Vaccine uptake remains crucial in limiting the impact of COVID-19 variants. For current eligibility, please visit [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov). On March 31, 2021, eligibility is expected to open to all individuals aged 16 and older.

With this identification, the St. Joseph County Department of Health urges the continuation of the following actions, even after vaccination:

- **Wear a facial covering (should fit snugly over the mouth and nose) anytime you are around people not in your household.**
- **Practice extreme physical distancing.**
  - Maintain at least 6ft between individuals.
  - Wearing a mask does NOT eliminate the need for physical distancing.
- **Practice frequent and proper hand hygiene & cough etiquette.**
  - Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap & water; coughing and sneezing into your sleeve.
- **Stay home if ill.**
- **Limit indoor social gatherings to fewer than ten people.**
- **Get the COVID-19 vaccine when you are eligible.**

For all COVID-19 testing sites in St. Joseph County, you can view an interactive map at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>. Please be aware each site may have different criteria for testing and may not be up to date.

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Indiana State Department of Health at [www.in.gov/isdh](http://www.in.gov/isdh) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). For general questions as it relates to COVID-19 infection, please call 2-1-1.

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