

# DELTA VARIANT FACT SHEET

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## **WHAT IS THE DELTA VARIANT?**

It's normal for viruses to change over time, leading to variants. When a variant spreads more easily, causes more serious illness, or impacts current treatments or vaccines, it's considered a "variant of concern." The main variant currently of concern in B.C. is the Delta variant. Delta is the most common form of the COVID-19 virus in British Columbia. In some areas, it accounts for almost all new cases.

## **WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?**

The Delta variant spreads more easily and causes more severe illness than both the original virus and other variants seen up to this point. For people who are not yet vaccinated, the risk of getting COVID-19 is now higher than ever. The number of cases and the number of people who need to be hospitalized are climbing, including young and previously healthy people.

## **DOES THE VACCINE PROTECT FROM THE DELTA VARIANT?**

Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provide very good protection against all current variants, including the Delta variant, especially against severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death. It is very important to get the second dose to have strong protection and to reduce the seriousness of any infection that may occur.

## **Sources:**

<https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/communicable-disease-control/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine-faqs>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/variants>