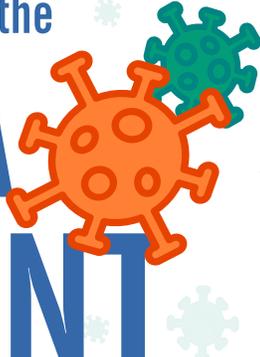


# Things to know about the **DELTA VARIANT**



## The Delta variant is a mutation of the original virus.

Over time, viruses mutate as they pass from person to person. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is no different. These mutations are called variants. Some variants continue to circulate while others die out. Other variants persist and become the dominant version of the virus. The Delta variant is currently the most dominant variant in the United States.

## It was detected in October of 2020 in India and is now present in Spokane County.

The Delta variant was first detected in India in October of 2020. Since then, it has spread around the globe. The Delta variant was first detected in Washington in April 2021 and is circulating in Spokane County.

## It's more contagious.

The Delta variant is highly contagious. It is believed to cause more than twice as many infections.

## It may cause more severe illness in unvaccinated people than previous variants.

There is evidence from studies conducted in England and Scotland that unvaccinated patients with the Delta variant may be more likely to be hospitalized than patients infected with other variants.

## People who are not vaccinated are at the greatest risk.

Unvaccinated people are most at risk for becoming infected with and spreading the Delta variant to others.

**Sources:** "Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified August 6, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>. // "COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions," Washington State Department of Health, last accessed August 17, 2021, <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/FrequentlyAskedQuestions#heading89858>.

Spokane Regional Health District assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To file a complaint or to request more information, reasonable accommodations, or language translations, contact 509.324.1501 or visit [srhd.org](http://srhd.org).

## More variants may emerge if we don't stop the spread.

Viruses mutate as they spread from person to person. Stopping transmission is the best way to prevent more variants that are even more transmissible and potentially more dangerous.

## People who are vaccinated can become infected, but symptoms are typically mild.

People who are vaccinated can, in rare cases, become infected with the Delta variant and spread it to others. However, evidence suggests that while vaccinated individuals develop the same high amount of virus as unvaccinated individuals, the amount of virus goes down sooner, meaning they are likely to be infectious for a shorter period of time and their symptoms are milder.

## WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO STOP IT.

The rules to slow the spread of the Delta variant are the same as they have been throughout the pandemic.

**Get vaccinated:** Our vaccines are showing good protection from the variant. Even if an unlikely breakthrough case (getting infected while fully immunized) occurred, the vaccine would provide good protection against severe illness. The vaccine is the best line of defense.

**Wear a mask, get tested, wash your hands, practice social distancing:** We still have other tools available like masking, testing, handwashing, and social distancing. These are especially valuable in public, indoor settings when you don't know the vaccination status of other people. Each precaution you take is an added layer of protection—and guess what? Each of these tools adds another layer of protection from the Delta variant.



[srhd.org](http://srhd.org)

SPOKANE REGIONAL  
**HEALTH**  
DISTRICT