



Epi Update for Friday, December 10, 2021

**Office of the Public Health Medical Director
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis**

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Iowa confirms case of Omicron variant**
- **In the news: Coronavirus FAQ: What does it mean if the booster knocks me out? What if it doesn't?**
- **Infographic: What's being done to slow the spread of Omicron variant in the US?**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Iowa confirms case of Omicron variant

On Thursday, December 9, The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) confirmed detection of the first case of the COVID-19 variant, Omicron, in an Iowa resident. The case involves an unvaccinated individual under the age of 18 who resides in Black Hawk County. The individual remains asymptomatic, however because of travel exposure; the family sought testing based on public health guidance. Black Hawk County Public Health acted quickly to initiate contact with the family and remain in contact to monitor the health of the individual.

Scientists are working to rapidly learn more about the Omicron variant to better understand how easily it might be transmitted and the effectiveness of current diagnostic tests, vaccines, and therapeutics against this variant. SHL maintains a strong statewide genomic surveillance program and the lab will continue to prioritize sequencing of test samples that look suspicious for the Omicron and other variants. The IDPH continues to recommend the COVID-19 vaccination to be the best way to protect yourself against any strain of the COVID-19 virus.

To read the full press release, please

visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMID/646/ArticleID/158445/Iowa-Confirms-Case-of-Omicron-Variant>.

For additional information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/scientific-brief-omicron-variant.html>.

In the news: Coronavirus FAQ: What does it mean if the booster knocks me out? What if it doesn't? <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/12/10/1054030220/coronavirus-faq-what-does-it-mean-if-the-booster-knocks-me-out-what-if-it-doesnt>.

Infographic: What's being done to slow the spread of Omicron variant in the US?

What's being done to slow the spread of the Omicron variant in the US?

Detect variants
Robust surveillance to rapidly detect variants

Slow spread from international travel
Decrease window for required testing before travel to US; increase testing after arrival

Slow domestic spread
Prioritize case investigation and contact tracing

Support individual protective actions
Vaccination including boosters, masks indoors and in crowds, testing & isolation

 [bit.ly/MMWR7050e1](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/social-media/mm7050e1) 

To view in full size visit https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/social-media/mm7050e1_OmicronInitialCasesUS_IMAGE_10Dec21_1200x675.jpg.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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