



## Public Health Administration

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## COVID-19 Variant B117 Found in Butte County

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County Public Health (BCPH) was notified of one case of the more contagious B117 strain of the coronavirus has been detected in Butte County.

Case investigation and contact tracing efforts had been initiated upon first report of the case, prior to variant testing. This individual is an adult.

The variant strain was first detected in the United Kingdom and has since spread to over 200 countries. As of March 4, 250 cases of the B117 variant have been detected in California.

“Detection of a variant that spreads more easily is a reminder that even though case rates are declining in Butte County, we must maintain our vigilance and continue using protective measures against coronavirus until most of the population has immunity. We cannot let down our guard,” stated Dr. Robert Bernstein, Butte County Public Health Officer.

Currently there is no indication that the vaccines or monoclonal antibody treatments are less effective on the B117 variant, however, there is evidence that his variant may be more severe.

Now, more than ever, people must continue to follow guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and all its variants, including:

- Wearing a mask/face covering, making sure it fits properly
- Keeping physical distance, at least 6 feet apart and more if possible
- Practicing good hand hygiene
- Getting tested for COVID-19, even if you are asymptomatic
- Avoiding crowds and indoor gatherings
- Staying home if you feel sick
- Getting vaccinated when it is available to you

For more information about variants in California, please visit: [tinyurl.com/292z7zaw](https://tinyurl.com/292z7zaw)

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