Health Advisory

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New Variant SARS-CoV-2 in Monterey County

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that the L452R variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been identified using genetic sequencing in multiple counties across the state, including in Monterey County. The L452R variant is increasingly being found in multiple counties throughout California including Humboldt, Lake, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Francisco, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Clara Counties. L452R has been associated with several large outbreaks in Santa Clara County. This variant is different than the B.1.1.7 variant which was first detected in the United Kingdom.

Detection of the L452R variant in Monterey County also represents the first evidence in Monterey County of second infection. The individual was symptomatic, recovered, then become symptomatic again months later. Genotyping of both specimens showed the virus came from different clades, indicating this was likely a new infection.

The California Department of Public Health is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local public health departments, and laboratory partners to learn more about the variant, including how it spreads and any potential impact on vaccine and monoclonal antibody treatment efficacy.

Additional Resources

- Monterey County COVID-19 website:  www.montereycountycovid19.org
- CDPH news release:  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR21-020.aspx

Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention.  Health Advisory: Provides information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.  Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.