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Executive Director

December 27, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **First Omicron Variant COVID-19 Cases in DuPage County Residents Confirmed**

**DuPage County**—DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) announced today that the first known cases of the Omicron variant in DuPage County were reported. DCHD received Illinois Department of Public Health data today including 16 DuPage County residents with the Omicron variant identified, with the earliest positive test collected on December 8, 2021. At this time, none of the Omicron variant cases of COVID-19 have been reported as hospitalized or deceased.

COVID-19 activity remains at very high levels with Delta and Omicron variants predominantly circulating in DuPage County and statewide. Vaccination is crucial to reducing transmission of COVID-19 and preventing the emergence of new variants.

“It was only a matter of time before the Omicron variant arrived in DuPage County,” said Karen Ayala, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) Executive Director. “We want to remind residents that we have the tools to stop the spread of these highly contagious variants. Tools such as COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster shots, wearing a high-quality face mask, maintaining 6-foot distance from others, getting tested when you have symptoms or before you gather, and increasing the flow of fresh air in indoor spaces.”

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available throughout DuPage County for all residents 5 years or older. Eligible teens aged 16-17 can get a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot and everyone 18 years or older may choose which COVID-19 vaccine they receive as a [booster shot](#).

Anyone age 5 years or older is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine and can find an appointment by going to [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

-More-



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No-cost testing remains available. For more information on testing locations, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing). For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

**STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**



WEAR  
A MASK



WATCH  
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH  
YOUR HANDS



GET  
VACCINATED