



## **DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Variant Case Guidance**

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently collecting information about the following COVID-19 variants of concern: B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, P.2, B.1.429/B.1.427 and B.1.526.
- CDC has officially designated B.1.1.7, B.1.351, B.1.429, B.1.427 and P.1 as [variants of concern](#). DSHS is additionally collecting data about P.2, B.1.525, and B.1.526 as there is evidence that some of the genetic changes that these variants carry may affect transmissibility and impact antigenic profile, which could impact the ability of antibodies generated through a previous natural infection with SARS-CoV-2 or vaccination to recognize and neutralize the virus.

### **Variant Case Reporting**

- Please notify DSHS Central Office at [EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) if sequence confirmed B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, P.2, B.1.429/B.1.427, B.1.525 or B.1.526 variant cases are reported to a PHR or LHD and request that the local health entity fill out a variant surveillance worksheet for each variant of concern case reported with the following naming convention, NEDSS PatientID\_Variant Name\_COVID-19 Variant Surveillance Worksheet.pdf (i.e. 48648802\_B.1.1.7\_COVID-19 Variant Surveillance Worksheet.pdf), for each sequence confirmed case and send it back to the PHR and [EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) via encrypted email.
- DSHS Austin Lab will accept PCR positive samples from close contacts of sequence confirmed variant cases for sequencing. Please send requests for this to the DSHS EAIDU Coronavirus Epidemiology team ([EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov))
- Please request laboratories hold B.1.351 and P.1 samples for submission to CDC. Other variant samples are not currently being requested for submission to the CDC. Please also notify DSHS EAIDU Coronavirus Epidemiology team ([EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov)) if B.1.351 and P.1 samples are being held to arrange for submission to CDC. The DSHS EAIDU Coronavirus Epidemiology team will email out sequencing submission information and forms for CDC sequencing submission.