



CAMERON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Cameron County Confirms COVID-19 Omicron Variant Case

Cameron County Public Health has received confirmation that a 29-year-old female from Brownsville tested positive for the COVID-19 Omicron variant. The individual was fully vaccinated, but had not yet received a booster.

“As we have suspected, and have now confirmed, the Omicron variant is spreading in Cameron County as it is in other parts of the nation and is likely a major factor in the current spike in cases,” stated Esmeralda Guajardo, Health Administrator. “We continue to stress the importance of being fully vaccinated, getting boosted, and wearing masks to protect yourself and others against COVID-19.”

The Omicron variant was first detected in specimens collected in Botswana and South Africa in November 2021. Since then it has been classified by the World Health Organization and designated by the United States as a Variant of Concern. On December 1, 2021, the first confirmed US case of Omicron was identified.

“Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant; however, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated will occur,” stated Dr. James W. Castillo, Cameron County Health Authority. “That we now have Omicron confirmed in our county, we will continue to emphasize the importance of vaccination and boosters.”

“With COVID cases on the rise and influenza season present, we must continue trying our best and avoid situations that may compromise our own health and that of our loved ones. Please follow prevention methods to avoid a severe illness and contact our public health hotline should you have questions regarding vaccine availability and boosters. Remember, unfortunately the antibody treatment to fight the Omicron variant remains unavailable statewide. Let’s continue with all safeguards,” stated Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr.

Cameron County Public Health continues to emphasize the importance of following COVID-19 prevention methods:

- Get vaccinated. Vaccination is the most important public health action to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- If you are in an area of substantial and high transmission, wear a mask in public indoor settings even if you are fully vaccinated.
- Practice social distance and keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute to physical distancing.
- If you are not wearing a mask, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- If you are sick, call your healthcare provider and home isolate.

For information on coronavirus, please contact the Cameron County Coronavirus Hotline at (956) 247-3650 or refer to the Cameron County Public Health website at <http://www.cameroncounty.us/publichealth/index.php/coronavirus/>.

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