



# HO-CHUNK NATION

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 14, 2021

CONTACT: Kiana Beaudin, Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department Health Officer, 715-284-9851

### COVID-19 Variants

The mission of the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health is provide health information to our community so that they may make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. New information is now available about COVID-19 variants which have been identified in Wisconsin. These variants are now making up over 50% of current positive cases in Wisconsin. Why should we be concerned? These new variants are much more transmissible. In the original strain of COVID-19 a positive person could spread the disease to 1-2 others very easily. In the variants it can be transmitted to 3-4 others easily creating a very large outbreak very quickly. These types of outbreaks can overwhelm our health care systems and hospitals. This is what we saw back in November and December with extremely high positive cases. Along with the spread of variants there is an increasing trend that we are seeing regarding positive cases in children under the age of 18 years. The majority of this age group does not yet have access to a vaccine for COVID-19. Children can spread COVID-19 to adults and those unvaccinated adults are at great risk.

We need community members 18-49 years old to step up and get vaccinated to help protect our community. **Vaccine alone cannot stop the spread** of COVID-19. Vaccine is a very important tool but not the only tool that we must use. Just as important we need community members to take masking, social distancing, and hand washing very seriously. The precautions should be taken with children as well. With variants on the rise now it is not the time to let our guard down. Please, anytime you go out of your home wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others outside of your home, and wash your hands frequently. #Woxeteki

Ho-Chunk Health Care Center

N6520 Lumberjack Guy Road

Black River Falls, WI 54615

Ph. 715-284-9851 FAX 715-284-5150

House of Wellness

S2845 White Eagle Rd

Baraboo, WI 53913

Ph. 888-552-7889 FAX 608-355-9643