

Virus variants confirmed in local counties

**(KAIR)--Coronavirus variants of concern are confirmed in five area counties, as the number of variants has risen sharply across Kansas.**

**According to the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#), two cases each are confirmed in Doniphan and Brown counties, while three are confirmed in Jefferson County, one in Leavenworth County, and four in Pottawatomie County.**

**Atchison County Health Officer Lori Forge, following questions posed by MSC News, confirmed that no virus variants have been reported in Atchison County.**

**KDHE statistics show that Kansas, in the past week, had a 32-percent increase in the total number of confirmed variant coronavirus cases, with all five variants of concern having now been identified in the state.**

**On Monday, KDHE reported a total of 175 variant cases in Kansas. That's up from 133 such cases confirmed last week.**

**According to KDHE, variants of concern are those that evidence shows to be more easily transmittable, have more severe outcomes, including an increase in hospitalizations or death, and are less likely to be neutralized by treatments or vaccines.**

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