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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Health Department Confirms First Case of B.1.351 Variant of COVID-19 in the Health Jurisdiction**

**PAPILLION:** The Sarpy/Cass Health Department has confirmed today that the first case of B.1.351 variant of COVID-19 has been identified in the health jurisdiction. The contact investigation was initiated this yesterday for this individual, a Cass County resident in his 70's.

As researchers learn more about the COVID-19 variants, it remains as important as ever to continue social distancing, wearing face masks when social distancing is not possible, and staying home while ill. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or if you develop symptoms, get tested for the virus. Residents are encouraged to complete the vaccine registration process at [www.vaccinate.ne.gov](http://www.vaccinate.ne.gov) and get the vaccine when it is available to you.

Public health partners across the state continue to take action to protect the health of Nebraskans. The Sarpy/Cass Health Department will continue to update our community as new information becomes available.

For more information about COVID-19 please visit [www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org](http://www.sarpycasshealthdepartment.org) or <http://dhhs.ne.gov/coronavirus> or call 211.

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