

Chicago Early Variant Alert Signal

CDPH also monitors the growth rate of new variants of concern (VOC) or variants of high concern (VOHC) as designated by the CDC. Logistic growth rate is used to measure how quickly a variant is growing in the population; quickly expanding variants likely have a large fitness advantage over existing variants.

This early alert signal also recognizes variants increasing in prevalence, displayed below in Table 1. RIPHL will continue to monitor these variants and provide updates as needed.

Table 1. SARS-CoV-2 variants currently increasing in prevalence in the Chicago area (as of August 5, 2023).

Sublineage	Parent Lineage	Date first detected in RIPHL
XBB.1.16	XBB (Omicron)	2/18/2023
EG.5	XBB.1.9 (Omicron)	5/27/2023
FL.1.5.1	XBB.1.9(Omicron)	8/5/2023

Conclusions

SARS-CoV-2 continues to evolve. Getting vaccinated remains the best way to protect yourself and others from all variants of COVID-19, including Omicron and its sub-lineages. You can learn more about current vaccine recommendations and where to get vaccinated by visiting [COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations \(chicago.gov\)](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/departments/100/covid-19/vaccine-recommendations.html) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Finder \(chicago.gov\)](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/departments/100/covid-19/vaccine-finder.html). As always, visit [SARS-CoV-2 Variants | COVID 19 \(chicago.gov\)](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/departments/100/covid-19/sars-cov-2-variants.html) for updates about SARS-CoV-2 variants circulating in Chicago.