New virus variants that spread more easily could lead to a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is known to acquire, on average, one new mutation every two weeks.

Some variants may be more transmissible, or less responsive to vaccines - so it is important to avoid exposure.

People traveling to Michigan and those who may have been exposed to the new variant should quarantine for 14 days (without the option to end quarantine early) and also get tested.

NOW, more than ever, it is important to slow the spread

- Wear a mask
  - A face shield may be worn over a mask for extra protection
- Stay at least 6 feet apart
- Avoid indoor gatherings
- Get tested
- Get vaccinated when available to you