



HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 22-24 Date: July 19th, 2024

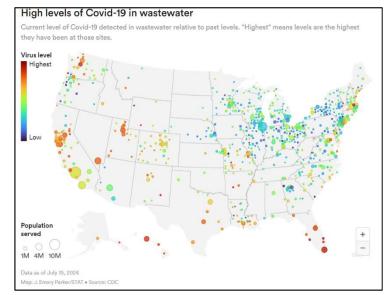
Increase in COVID Related Illnesses

As the United States moves into the mid-summer months, there has been a resurgence of COVID cases throughout the nation. This resurgence has also affected a large amount of GIS and its family of companies' team

members.

While the COVID virus is now considered a virus here to stay and circulate like influenzas and RSV. It still can cause disruptions to home, work, and school life.

The purpose of this safety alert is to bring awareness that there are three new sub-strains of the Omicron variant which include KP.3, KP.2, LB.1.



In the past few weeks, GIS's Health, Safety, and Environmental Department has seen a substantial increase in the number of employees with COVID cases. While statistically these variants are less deadly than previous strains and variants of the virus, they are also more transmissible.

It is important to remember that while vaccinations and the associated boosters play an important role in reducing serious cases including those that can lead to hospitalization and death, they may not make an individual immune to catching mild cases, carrying, or spreading the virus to others.

Simple safety practices such as frequently washing your hands, practicing social distancing, staying up to date on vaccines and boosters, and ensuring you are fit and healthy can all play important roles in reducing the spread of COVID. Lastly, if you are sick stay home or if you become sick while at work immediately report this to your supervisor or contact the HSE Hot-Line.

