MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2021

TO: Robert Ernst, University of Michigan
    Danielle Sheen, University of Michigan
    Dyan Jenkins Ali, University of Michigan
    Emily Toth Martin, University of Michigan

FROM: Jimena Loveluck, MSW
      Washtenaw County Health Officer

CC: Mark Schlissel, University of Michigan
    Preeti Malani, University of Michigan
    Chris Kolb, University of Michigan
    Gregory Dill, Washtenaw County
    Juan Marquez, Washtenaw County Health Department

SUBJECT: Stay in Place Recommendations Due to SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7

On January 16, 2021 the first Michigan case of new COVID-19 variant, B.1.1.7, was identified in an adult living in Washtenaw County by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and two additional cases in adults living in Washtenaw County who were in close contact with the first case were confirmed on January 21, 2021. To date, there are 14 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 B.1.1.7 variant associated with the University of Michigan (U-M) community.

It is unknown—and under current study—whether clinical outcomes or disease severity from B.1.1.7 is increased compared to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has been circulating across the United States for months. The B.1.1.7 variant is approximately 50 percent more transmissible, leading to faster spread, potentially increased numbers of cases, and additional hospitalizations and deaths.

Control of the COVID-19 epidemic and containment of this new COVID-19 variant is necessary to protect the public health of the residents of Washtenaw County. The U-M administration has been actively engaged in discussions of these determinations and epidemiological findings and has partnered in the recommendations outlined in this memo. It is imperative for both the WCHD and U-M to act proactively and collaboratively.

Given the number of cases associated with the U-M community and the potential for rapid spread due to this variant, the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) strongly recommends all local U-M students stay in place immediately to contain the outbreak. This recommendation is directed at all undergraduate, graduate and professional U-M students currently residing in Washtenaw County.

This stay in place recommendation for all U-M students currently residing in Washtenaw County will last until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 7, 2021. More stringent, mandatory actions may be imposed if this outbreak continues to grow and additional variant clusters are identified.
Recommendations include the following:

1. Beginning immediately and ending February 7, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., all U-M undergraduate, graduate and professional students enrolled in U-M Winter 2021 on the Ann Arbor campus, living in on-campus housing or living in off-campus housing within Washtenaw County should stay in place and remain in their current residence.

2. Staying in place means that gatherings or group activities are not to occur outside the listed exceptions below:
   a. Students may attend such in-person classes as the University determines will continue to be taught during this period, including instructional labs, and access essential technology at U-M designated study areas that provide for single-person study space with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   b. Students may leave their room/residence for the purpose of picking up food, attending medical appointments, picking up medication, or obtaining COVID-19 testing or vaccination with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   c. Students may attend work only if the work cannot be done remotely with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   d. Students who have clinical rotations, student teaching or other off-campus experiential learning assignments that are held in person may continue with approval from the college dean (or designee), disclosure to the organization of placement such that both the school and site are aware and supportive of continued participation, and with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   e. Students may leave their room/residence for purposes of physical activity outdoors in groups of no more than two with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   f. Students may leave their room/residence for purposes of religious practice activities with strict adherence to preventive measures.
   g. Students may leave their room/residence for purpose of volunteering in approved vaccination and testing efforts following strict adherence to preventive measures.

3. Students are expected to respond to inquiries (texts, emails or calls) from the WCHD and U-M-EHS and to fully disclose information relevant to case investigation and contact tracing (see Attachment 1 – WCHD Compliance Criteria).

4. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 (cases), or who are identified as a close contact to a case, are required to adhere to all public health isolation and quarantine restrictions as set forth by the WCHD / U-M-EHS.

5. Strict preventive measures include adherence to the WCHD and U-M guidelines regarding COVID-19 prevention; maintaining 6-foot distance between persons; and wearing a face covering in compliance with U-M Face Covering Policy for COVID-19 and the January 22, 2021 MDHHS Gatherings and Face Mask Order.

6. As defined in the MDHHS Gatherings and Face Mask Order, congregate-style dwellings consist of shared kitchen or bathroom facilities occupied by 20 or more unrelated persons. This recommendation urges that masks be worn inside these congregate-style dwellings any time individuals are outside of their bedrooms.

7. These recommendations may be extended beyond February 7, 2021 or additional restrictions may be put in place if additional variant clusters are identified.