



DECATUR REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tracking the New Variant

COVID-19 cases are on the rise once more. For the fourth week in a row, COVID-19 **hospitalizations** are on the rise, but experts note that, societally, we are more prepared as we are in a different place **compared** to the early days of the pandemic.

This news comes as the CDC announced it's tracking a recently discovered COVID-19 **variant**. This variant is designated at BA.2.86 and hosts many mutations. While health organizations begin tracking this variant, it's too early to tell if it will be more or less dangerous than the currently circulating strains of COVID-19.

The FDA and the CDC expect updated COVID-19 **vaccines** to be available by the end of September, with broader availability in October.

In Other News

The death toll from the tragic Maui **wildfires** reaches 111 with over 1,000 individuals still unaccounted for by officials.

State officials offer **tips** for student loan borrowers as repayments resume.

Governor Pritzker signs **legislation** that will allow work-based learning in FFA or 4-H to count as excused absences in school.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hits a **21-year high**.

The invasive **yellow-legged hornet** is spotted in the U.S. for the first time.

Hurricane Hilary strengthens to a Category 4 and is expected to impact the Southwest United States.

Former McLean County Board member Chuck Erickson **announces** his run for the 88th Illinois House District.

The Decatur Fire Department opens their new **fire station**.

Seven Decatur restaurants receive **Back 2 Business** grants totaling \$290,000.

A new study find that hosting the Farm Progress show brings in over **\$31 million** in economic activity.

Bids and RFPs

Macon County: **Land Records Recording System Bids**

City of Decatur: **2023 Local Motor Fuel Tax Street Improvement Project; Annual Watermain Replacement Project: S. Franklin St., Imboden Dr., and Medial Dr.; Street Restoration Project.**

Village of Mt. Zion: None at this time.

Decatur Park District: None at this time.

