



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2022
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 mins
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s): Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director of Public Health
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
Nancy Anderson, Assistant CEO *NA*
SUBJECT: Update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

DocuSigned by:

4184675C725B460...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a brief update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Santa Barbara County’s response and operations;
- b) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County is continuing ongoing robust efforts to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Staff from Public Health, Human Resources, and the County Executive Office may present updates as information changes throughout the response. Public Health will be presenting information on case rates and the latest COVID-19 information available, including the current status of the Omicron variant and [CDPH facial covering guidance](#). On February 7, 2022, CDPH notified Local Health Departments that the State Health Officer Order regarding

indoor facial coverings will revert to facial coverings required indoors only for unvaccinated individuals and universal facial coverings for everyone on public transportation, K-12, childcare, congregate settings, and healthcare facilities effective February 16, 2022. Santa Barbara County Public Health issued Health Order No. 2022-10.1 which rescinded Health Officer Order No. 2022-10, which aligned with the State's recommendation on the use of face masks.

On February 28, 2022, CDPH issued updated guidance for the use of face masks which includes the following changes:

- Effective March 1, 2022, the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings will move to a strong recommendation that all persons, regardless of vaccine status, continue indoor masking.
- Universal masking shall remain required in specified high-risk settings.
- After March 11, 2022, the universal masking requirement for K-12 and Childcare settings will terminate. CDPH strongly recommends that individuals in these settings continue to mask in indoor settings when the universal masking requirement lifts.

Santa Barbara County Public Health released an updated HOO to align with the State's masking guidance. The full SBCPHOO can be found [here](#).

Discussion

Omicron Variant

On November 24, 2021, South Africa reported the identification of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant, B.1.1.529, to the World Health Organization (WHO). On November 26, 2021, the Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution (TAG-VE) convened to assess B.1.1.529. The TAG-VE advised WHO that this variant should be designated as a Variant of Concern (VOC), and WHO designated B.1.1.529 as a VOC named Omicron. On Friday, November 26, 2021, the White House issued a Presidential Proclamation suspending entry from eight countries in southern Africa. CDC later modified modify the testing order for travel, shortening the timeline for required testing for all international air passengers to one day before departure to the United States. On November 28, 2021, CDPH issued a statement on the Omicron variant, which Santa Barbara County Public Health is closely monitoring

On December 1, 2021, the California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health released a [joint statement](#) on the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant in California. CDPH notes the State of California is increasing COVID-19 testing at airports for arrivals from countries identified by the CDC. CDC also issued a [media statement](#) on December 1, 2021 regarding the first confirmed Omicron variant case in California. Health agencies are continuing to increase Omicron surveillance. Additional information on the Omicron variant can be found [here](#).

Key Data Highlights

For most up-to-date COVID 19 data for Santa Barbara County, please refer to our [Community Data Dashboard](#). As of February 28, 2022:

- 67.7% of SB County fully vaccinated
- 72% of eligible fully vaccinated
- New cases: 26, Active cases: 391, Total cases: 84,435
- Case Rate per 100k as of February 23, 2022: 13.96
- Test Positivity as of February 23, 2022: 5.0%
- 42 hospitalized

Face Coverings/ State Guidance

On July 28, 2021, a recommendation for universal masking indoors statewide was issued, which can be found [here](#). On August 4, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (SBCPHD) issued a local Health Officer Order mandating the use of universal face coverings in indoor settings countywide. The SBCHOO was extended on September 5, 2021, October 5, 2021, [November 5, 2021](#), December 3, 2021, January 2, 2022 and on February 1, 2022. On February 7, 2022, the California Department of Public Health updated their Guidance for the Use of Face Masks to take effect on February 16, 2022, requiring unvaccinated persons to wear masks in all indoor public settings, requiring universal masking in only specified settings, and recommending continued indoor masking when the risk may be high. Then on February 28, 2022, CDPH issued updated guidance for the use of face masks which moves the requirement for unvaccinated individuals to mask indoors to a strong recommendation, effective March 1, 2022. The guidance also notes that after March 11, 2022, the universal masking requirement for K-12 and Childcare settings will terminate. Santa Barbara County Public Health released an updated HOO to align with the State's masking guidance. The most up to date facial covering HOO can be found [here](#).

Additional changes at the State level include changes to the [Mega Event Guidelines](#). Mega Event Guidelines will return to thresholds of 1,000 attendees for Indoor Mega Events and 10,000 attendees for Outdoor Mega Events. Additional information can be found [here](#).

The most up to date recommendations on isolation and quarantine and facial coverings can also be found at [publichealthsb.org](#).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This agenda item is for information purposes only. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Authored by:

Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst, County Executive Office