



**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:** January 11, 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  
**SUBJECT:** Update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

DocuSigned by:

*Mona Miyasato*  
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**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:

- Receive and file a brief update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Santa Barbara County's response and operations;
- Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- 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. On November 28, 2021, CDPH issued a statement on the Omicron variant, which Santa Barbara County Public Health is closely monitoring. In response to Omicron, which has now arrived in California, CDPH

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is continuing to promote vaccination and booster efforts to ensure all Californians have access to safe, effective, and free vaccinations. More information on the Omicron variant and how California is preparing for it 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 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 and over the next several weeks it is anticipated that more will be known about the transmissibility and virulence of the variant.

On December 29, 2021, SBCPH received confirmation of the first four cases of COVID-19 related to the Omicron variant in Santa Barbara County. SBCPH is closely following the Omicron variant and will present the most up to date information on January 11, 2022, including but not limited to the most up to date guidance regarding testing, isolation and quarantine.

### **Key Data Highlights**

For most up-to-date COVID 19 data for Santa Barbara County, please refer to our [Community Data Dashboard](#). As of December 29-30, 2021:

- 64.6% of SB County fully vaccinated
- 68.7% of eligible fully vaccinated
- New cases: 538, Active cases: 1,938, Total cases: 49,596
- Case Rate per 100k as of December 26, 2021: 38.8
- Test Positivity as of December 26, 2021: 11.1%
- 50 hospitalized

### **Face Coverings/ Social Distancing**

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 and again on January 2, 2022. The most recent full HOO on indoor face coverings can be found [here](#). An update to the previous framework has been outlined to consider rescinding the indoor mask mandate

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should a case rate of 7.0 cases per 100,000 people or lower be in place for three consecutive weeks. In addition to this, hospitalizations should be low and stable for at least 3 days. SBCPHD will consider these metrics, along with any other relevant factors, including the spread of new variants.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

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

**Authored by:**

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