



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:** February 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  
**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:

- 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. Language will be added to this order to allow local restrictions based on local epidemiology. This updated State guidance will be effective February 16, 2022. Information on local SBCPH HOO regarding indoor facial coverings 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 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. In response to Omicron, CDPH is continuing to promote vaccination and booster efforts to ensure all Californians have access to safe, effective, and free vaccinations.

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. As of December 20, 2021, Omicron has been detected in most states and is rapidly increasing. Additional information on the Omicron variant can be found [here](#).

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 February 15, 2022, including but not limited to the most up to date guidance regarding testing, isolation and quarantine, and facial covering guidance.

### **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 6, 2022:

- 66.8% of SB County fully vaccinated
- 71.0% of eligible fully vaccinated
- New cases: 447, Active cases: 3,155, Total cases: 80,481
- Case Rate per 100k as of January 31, 2022: 105.58
- Test Positivity as of January 31, 2022: 19.6%
- 118 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. The most recent full HOO on indoor face coverings 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 isolation and quarantine and facial coverings can also be found at [publichealthsb.org](http://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