



Public Health Brief

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Omicron Variant of COVID-19 ID'd in California

Joint Statement from the California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health on the First Confirmed Case of the Omicron Variant

Date: December 1, 2021

Number: NR21-341

Contact: CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov

SACRAMENTO – "As expected, and thanks to California's large-scale testing and early detection systems, the State of California and the San Francisco Department of Public Health have confirmed a case of the Omicron variant in California. Our partners at the University of California, San Francisco identified this case through their sequencing capabilities. California is continuing to monitor the variant's presence and progress through the state's robust Whole Genome Sequencing surveillance.

We must remain vigilant against this variant, but it is not a cause for panic. To help detect and prevent the spread of this new variant, the State of California is increasing COVID-19 testing at our airports for arrivals from countries identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We recognize that everyone is exhausted, and the news of a new variant can be overwhelming. It is important that we collectively focus on the things we know prevent the



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spread of COVID-19, and its variants. Individuals should (1) get vaccinated and boosted; (2) wear your mask in indoor settings; (3) get tested if you have symptoms; and (4) stay home if you are sick.

As we continue to learn more about the Omicron variant and how it can impact all of us, we will share that information through covid19.ca.gov and cdph.ca.gov."

Note:

This is as anticipated and expected. So far, very preliminary information indicates the following:

- Illness appears to be mild
- Spread appears to be extensive
- Existing tests will still work

We fully expect that more cases will be identified in the days to come. We will pass along information as it becomes available.

What should you do in the meantime? Nothing different than you should have been doing in days past!

COVID19.CA.GOV

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)



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