



# Health Update

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## COVID-19 Omicron Cases Increasing Rapidly in California

### Situational Update

The Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) requests your assistance in continuing to respond to COVID-19 including the latest variant of concern, the B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant, as laboratory-confirmed Omicron cases have been detected in the Central Valley region.

In the week after Omicron first appeared in coastal counties, case rates have increased rapidly. It is estimated that over 50% of COVID-19 cases in these counties are now due to the Omicron variant. Los Angeles County has seen cases double in a single day (from 3,000 to over 6,000 cases) and estimate they may see over 20,000 cases per day by the end of the month.

While the Omicron variant has been detected in the Central Valley region, the case rates in Madera County have not yet begun to increase. However, it is likely only a matter of days or weeks until the case counts begin to increase in Madera County as seen in other areas of the state. It is important to take advantage of the days or weeks before cases increase.

### Actions Requested of Clinicians

- **Strongly recommend the booster vaccinations to all patients**
  - After six months the benefit of full vaccination for preventing infection and severe disease from the Omicron variant begins to diminish rapidly. It is estimated that a booster dose will restore immunity to levels seen after completing vaccination, and to a level effective at preventing severe disease from the Omicron variant. While the Omicron variant may be less pathogenic than the current widespread Delta variant, the sheer number of potential cases makes preventing any severe cases of the greatest importance to avoid overwhelming the hospital system.
  - Vaccinations including boosters are available at no cost to the public. Residents may visit <https://myturn.ca.gov/> or call 311 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also accepted.
- **Reinforce with patients how to protect themselves with using masks effectively**
  - [Instructions](#) for masking effectively
- **Inform patients of the importance and availability of testing, especially before and after travel, or large gatherings.**

- [www.maderacounty.com/covid19testing](http://www.maderacounty.com/covid19testing)

➤ **Refer high-risk patients diagnosed with COVID-19 for monoclonal antibody treatment**

- Find more information on MAB visit [www.maderacounty.com/covid19mab](http://www.maderacounty.com/covid19mab)
- NOTE: Sotrovimab is the monoclonal antibody treatment that best maintains efficacy against the Omicron variant. Supplies of Sotrovimab are limited, however, once the omicron variant exceeds 20% or more of cases in an area, Sotrovimab should be used when available, especially for the highest risk patients)

*The COVID treatments Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are recently approved under EUA through the FDA. These treatments will be allocated to Rite Aid and CVS pharmacies in the city of Madera, Chowchilla and Oakhurst. Initial allocations will be extremely limited, we expect to receive 20 courses of Paxlovid and 140 courses of Molnupiravir the week of December 28<sup>th</sup>. Providers will be updated when more information is available for prescribing treatments.*

- Pfizer: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>
- Merck: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155053/download>

Prevention and control of COVID-19, including the variants of concern, can only be achieved if vaccination, testing, and treatments are in accordance with the latest data-based recommendations. Thank you for your ongoing work to improve the health of all residents of Madera County during this most challenging pandemic. Working collaboratively, we have the best chance of reducing morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 your patients and countywide.

For the latest information on COVID-19 in Madera County visit [www.maderacounty.com/covid19](http://www.maderacounty.com/covid19)

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

