



SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern in Imperial County

Updated
December 11, 2023

What is a Variant?

Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been identified globally during the COVID-19 pandemic. Variants are determined by their genetic sequences. It's important to understand that genetic mutations of the virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, are expected, and that there are many strains of the virus. Public health, academic, and clinical partners are working together to sequence the genetic material of the virus in California.

Variants of Concern		
WHO* Label	Lineage	Cases
Omicron	B.1.1.529 and descendant lineages	3,070

* World Health Organization

Variants of Concern by Age Range	
0-17	490
18-49	1,834
50-64	495
65+	251
Total	3,070

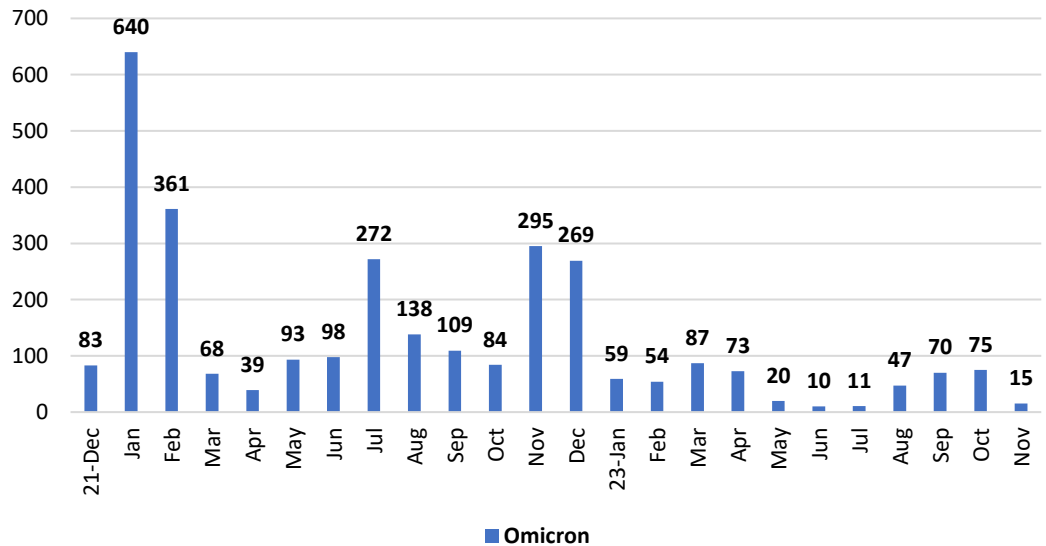
Variants of Concern by City	
Brawley	431
Calexico	516
Calipatria	49
El Centro	558
Heber	104
Holtville	71
Imperial	323
Niland	15
Ocotillo	1
Salton City	4
Seeley	14
Thermal	49
Westmorland	27
Winterhaven	5
Out of County	210
Out of Country	693
Total	3,070

SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications

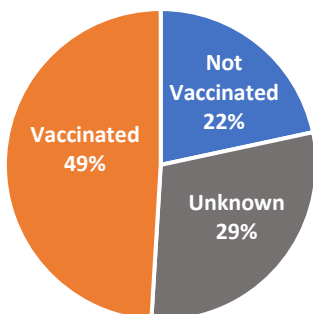
Variant classifications have been updated per the U.S. government SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group variant classification scheme. If a variant is considered more contagious or likely to cause greater illness or severe disease, or may impact treatment or vaccine response, then it is considered a **variant of concern**. The Omicron Variant (B.1.1.529 and BA lineages) is currently the only variant of concern. An increase in the number of cases could strain health-care resources, and lead to more hospitalizations and deaths. Omicron (B.1.1.529) was designated as a Variant of Concern by the World Health Organization on November 26, 2021. California's first case of Omicron variant was identified in early December 2021 and in Imperial County in late December 2021.

From December 2021 to November 2023, a total of 3,070 SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern have been identified. The age group most affected is 18-49 years.

Variants of Concern - Imperial County December 2021 - November 2023



Vaccination Status of Cases with Variants of Concern



Of those with known vaccination status, most infections from variants of concern have been in vaccinated individuals. Of those who are unvaccinated, 25% are children under 12 years of age. Of those with unknown vaccination status, 53% are asylum seekers.

For more information about variants in California, go to: [Tracking Variants \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Tracking-Variants)