

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern Circulating in Imperial County



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.

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.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN		
WHO* LABEL	LINEAGE	CASES
Omicron	B.1.1.529	2,566

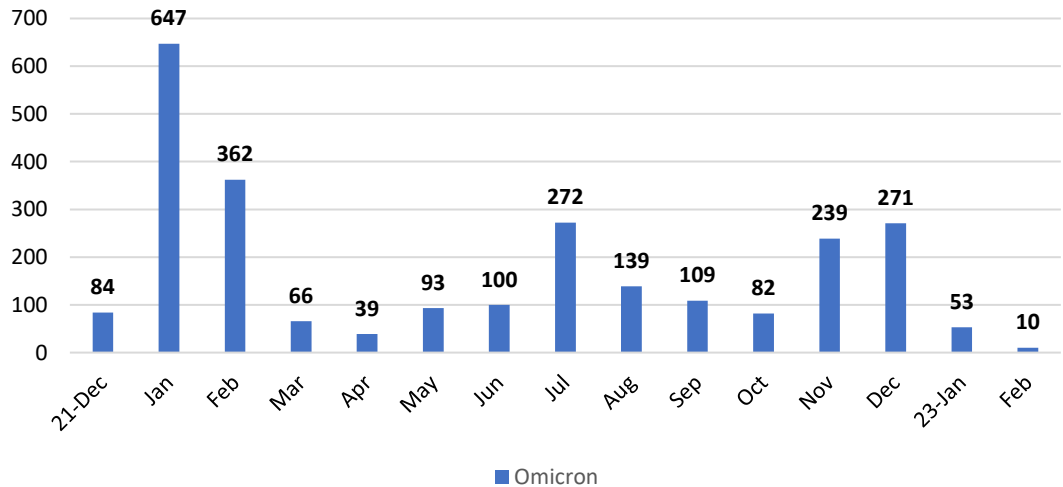
* World Health Organization

VARIANTS OF CONCERN BY AGE RANGE	
0-17	395
18-49	1,573
50-64	413
65+	185
Total	2,566

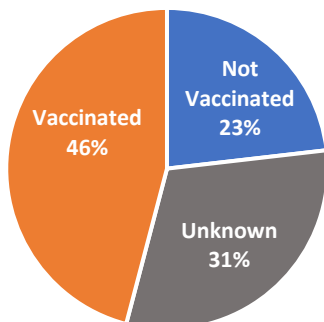
VARIANTS OF CONCERN BY CITY	
Brawley	331
Calexico	383
Calipatria	38
El Centro	459
Heber	85
Holtville	50
Imperial	281
Niland	12
Ocotillo	1
Seeley	11
Thermal	42
Westmorland	13
Winterhaven	3
Out of County	199
Out of Country	658
Total	2,566

From December 2021 to February 2023, a total of 2,566 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 - February 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, 56% are asylum seekers.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants Being Monitored in Imperial County

Updated
February 27, 2023

VARIANTS BEING MONITORED		
WHO* LABEL	VARIANT	CASES
Alpha	B.1.1.7	110
Beta	B.1.351	1
Delta	B.1.617.2 and AY lineages	1,281
Gamma	P.1	169
Epsilon	B.1.427 and B.1.429	123
Iota	B.1.526	10
Mu	B.1.621	26
Total		1,720

SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications

The term **variants being monitored** is used to describe a variant for which there are data indicating a potential or clear impact on treatment or that has been associated with more severe disease or increased transmission but are no longer detected or are circulating at very low levels, and as such, do not pose a significant and imminent risk to public.

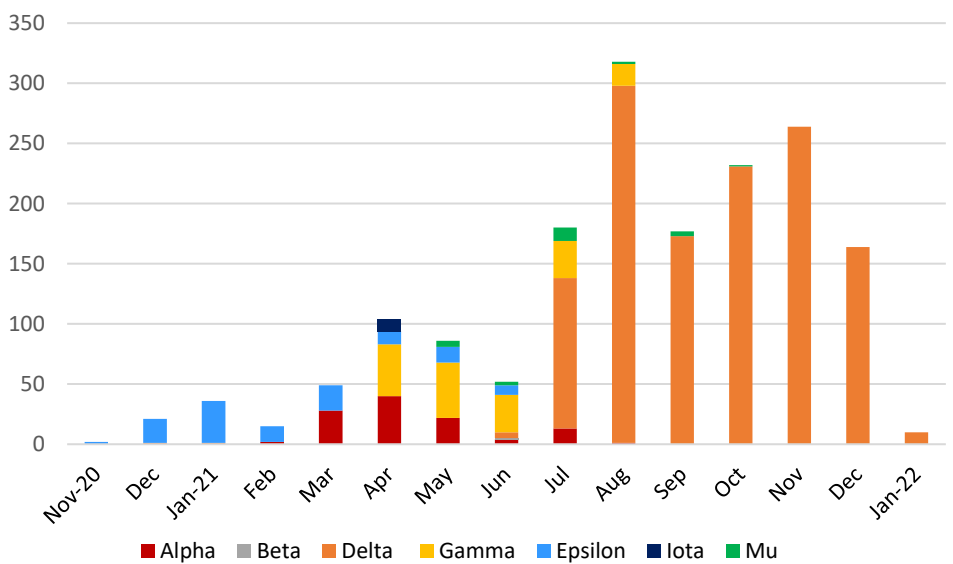
*World Health Organization

From November 2020 to January 2022, a total of 1,720 SARS-CoV-2 Variants Being Monitored have been identified. The predominant Variant Being Monitored is Delta (B.1.617.2 and all AY lineages) The most affected age group is 18-49 years old.

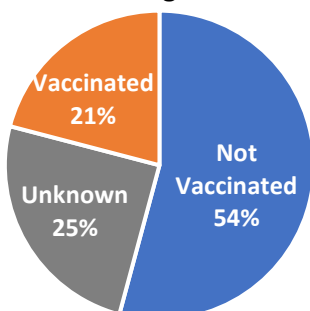
VARIANTS BEING MONITORED BY AGE RANGE	
0-17	408
18-49	947
50-64	262
65+	103
Total	1,720

VARIANTS BEING MONITORED BY CITY	
Bard	1
Brawley	258
Calexico	166
Calipatria	19
El Centro	429
Heber	48
Holtville	57
Imperial	318
Niland	3
Seeley	19
Thermal	22
Westmorland	18
Winterhaven	3
Out of County	44
Out of Country	315
Total	1,720

Variants Being Monitored - Imperial County November 2020 - January 2022



Vaccination Status of Cases with Variants Being Monitored



Most infections from variants being monitored are in unvaccinated individuals. Of those who are unvaccinated, 15% are children under 12 years of age. Of those with unknown vaccination status, 60% are asylum seekers.