

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern 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.

Variants of Concern		
WHO* Label	Lineage	Cases
Omicron	B.1.1.529 and descendant lineages	2,859

* World Health Organization

Variants of Concern by Age Range	
0-17	445
18-49	1,734
50-64	462
65+	218
Total	2,859

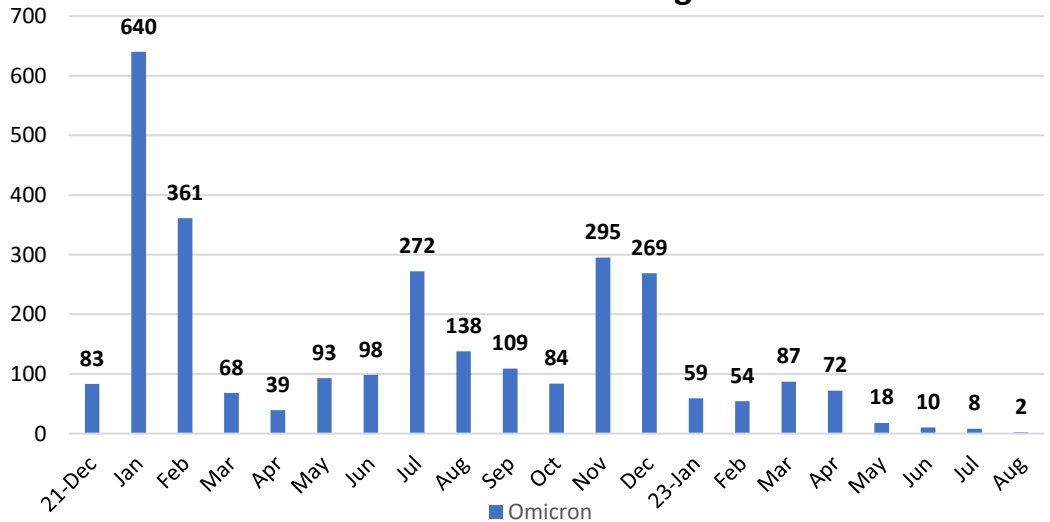
SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications

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.

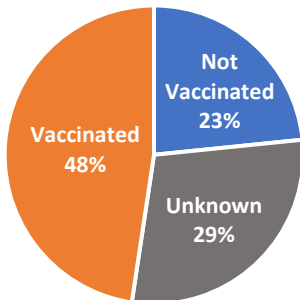
From December 2021 to August 2023, a total of 2,859 SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern have been identified. The age group most affected is 18-49 years.

Variants of Concern by City	
Brawley	382
Calexico	450
Calipatria	42
El Centro	520
Heber	95
Holtville	62
Imperial	305
Niland	14
Ocotillo	1
Salton City	1
Seeley	14
Thermal	44
Westmorland	22
Winterhaven	5
Out of County	209
Out of Country	693
Total	2,859

Variants of Concern - Imperial County December 2021 - August 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, 57% are asylum seekers.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants Being Monitored in Imperial County

Updated
August 28, 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.

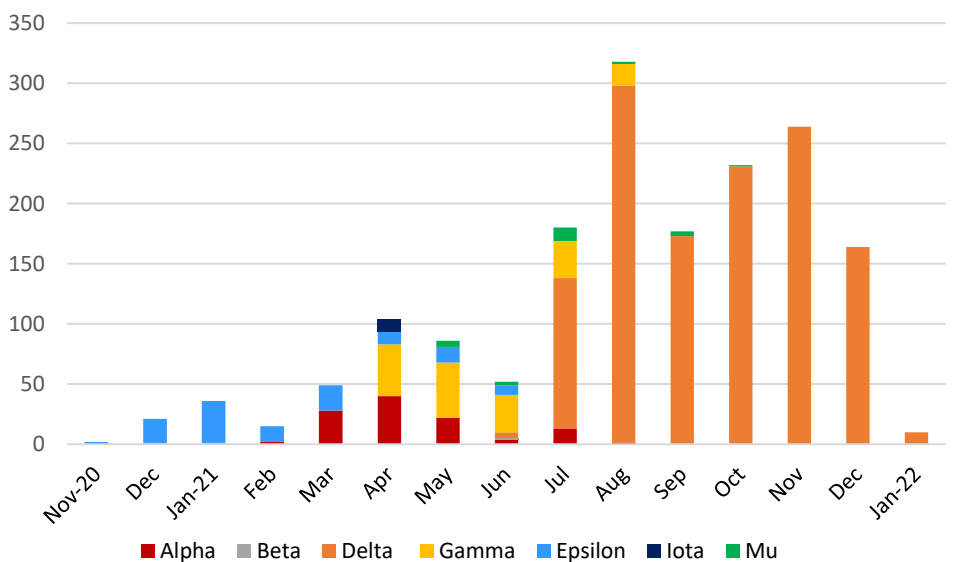
*World Health Organization

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.

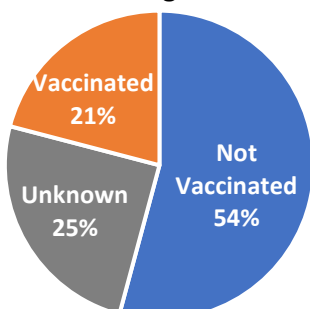
Variants Being Monitored by Age Range	
0-17	408
18-49	947
50-64	262
65+	103
Total	1,720

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.

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