



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

Updated  
November 28, 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	3,049

\* World Health Organization

Variants of Concern by Age Range	
0-17	484
18-49	1,822
50-64	494
65+	249
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,049</b>

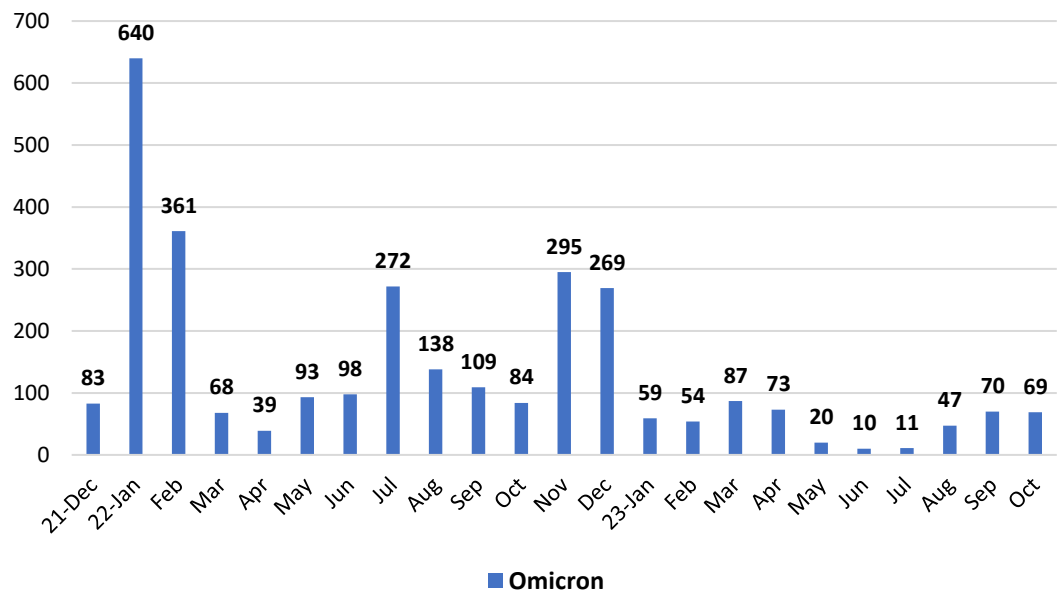
Variants of Concern by City	
Brawley	427
Calexico	507
Calipatria	48
El Centro	555
Heber	104
Holtville	71
Imperial	322
Niland	14
Ocotillo	1
Salton City	3
Seeley	14
Thermal	49
Westmorland	27
Winterhaven	5
Out of County	209
Out of Country	693
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,049</b>

## SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications

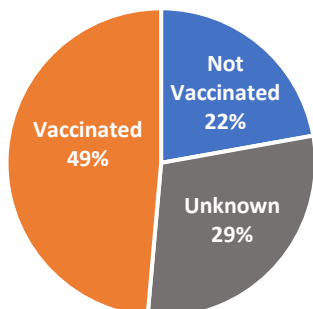
Variant classifications have been updated per the U.S. government SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group variant classification scheme. If a variant is considered more contagious or likely to cause greater illness or severe disease, or may impact treatment or vaccine response, then it is considered a **variant 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 October 2023, a total of 3,049 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 - 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, 54% are asylum seekers.

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