



02/25/2022

***New Information From Your CPMG Medical Directors...
... always interesting to us – hopefully useful to you!***

From: Morris, Kenneth MD <kmorris@rchsd.org>

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 4:47 PM

Subject: CPCMG/RCPMS COVID CHRONICLES 2/25/2022 (edition #206)

These are weekly updates for all CPCMG and RCPMS staff. Other valued community members which include all CPMG affiliates and Radys Executives, as asked, have been included for the sake of collaboration. Please note that the information included herein is geared towards CPCMG & RCPMS staff and while generally useful to the broad community, all aspects may not always be applicable to your respective organizations.

Narrative

This is an abbreviated version of the Chronicles with most of the new information confined to the Masking, Omicron, Booster Mandates and Quest for Immunity sections below. Community case numbers, patient case numbers and staff/clinician positives continue to normalize to pre-Omicron surge levels.

Masking

- *According to new CDC guidance released today, most people in the United States live in areas where those who are healthy do not need to wear masks indoors. With current high levels of vaccination and high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, the risk of medically significant disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 is greatly reduced for most people. Previous metrics based on Covid transmission alone suggested that 99% of the US population needed to wear masks indoors. New CDC metrics indicate that about 28% of people in the United States live in a county where they need to wear masks indoors. This is based on the newly revised [CDC “Covid-19 community level” metrics](#) which are based on three pieces of data in a community: **new Covid-19 hospitalizations, hospital capacity and new Covid-19 cases**. The following is the grid to determine where a county may fall:*

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

To find out the COVID-19 community level:

- First determine whether a county, state, or territory has fewer than 200 new cases per 100,000 people in the past 7 days or 200 new cases or more per 100,000 people in the past 7 days.
- Then, determine the level (low, medium, or high) for the new admissions and inpatient beds and indicators using the scale for the area’s number for new cases.
- The COVID-19 Community Level is based on the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics.
- The COVID-19 Community Level for each county can be found at www.CDC.gov
- For Low (Green), Moderate (Yellow) and High (Orange) levels, the CDC published and suggested both individual/household level prevention behaviors & community levels prevention strategies.
- Where are San Diego & Riverside?
 - San Diego: High (Orange)
 - Riverside: Medium (Yellow)



Omicron

- More on BA.2
 - The WHO has reported that review of data in Denmark suggests that BA.2 is about 30% more transmissible than BA.1
 - While worldwide Covid cases have fallen 21% over the week ending February 20th, the BA.2 variant has been rising and has become the dominant strain in 18 countries. The rising appears to be most prominent in SE Asia followed by the Eastern Mediterranean, African, Western Pacific and European regions.
 - The overall prevalence in the US remains low accounting for 0.38% or less of all samples sequenced.
 - It appears that while rare, it is possible to get Omicron after Omicron (BA.2 after BA.1).
 - After combing through 140,000 viral genomes from people testing positive, a Danish study looked at 263 people with reinfections from late November to mid-February using sequencing and found 190 people whose infections were caused by the BA.2 variant. Of those 190 previously infected:
 - 140 people were first infected by Delta (we have known that Delta does not necessarily protect against Omicron).
 - 47 people were first infected by BA.1 followed by BA.2.
 - Of the 47, all were under 40 years of age
 - 42 of the 47 were unvaccinated
 - 28 of the 47 were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms and there were no hospitalizations or deaths.

Booster Mandates

- CA Mandate

- Surveillance testing began Monday, January 10th for those that are eligible, but have not had their booster dose of Covid vaccine or have not submitted documentation of having received the booster dose.
- The booster mandate deadline is March 1st.
 - If you do not have a current medical or religious exemption on file, but are going to request one for the booster dose, please do so immediately.
 - Please note that those with exemptions will need to participate in the one to two times per week surveillance testing program.
- CDPH published guidance this week updating its HCW mandate order that those who had a recent Covid infection can delay receipt of their booster dose for up to 90 days after their infection even if those 90 days extend beyond the March 1st cutoff. The basis of their decision: *“Increasing evidence shows that a combination of infection after completing the primary series of vaccination can build strong hybrid immunity.”*
- SDUSD Mandate
 - SDUSD approved a new timeline saying that students will not be required to be vaccinated until August as a legal challenge to its student vaccine mandate remains under appeal. This delay may end up better coinciding with a statewide student mandate and could also include those 12-15 y/o if the vaccine becomes fully approved for that age group.

The Quest for Immunity

- Recommendations for Changes to interval between Dose #1 & Dose #2

The CDC changed its guidance on Tuesday after some studies (previously reported in the Chronicles) suggested that the small risk of myocarditis especially in men could be reduced further by increasing the interval between the 1st & 2nd doses (up to 8 weeks).

Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Age group	Number of doses in primary series	Number of booster doses	Interval between 1st and 2nd dose	Interval between primary series and booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech	5-11 years	2	NA	3 weeks	NA
Pfizer-BioNTech	≥12 years	2	1	3-8 weeks*	≥5 months
Moderna	≥18 years	2	1	4-8 weeks*	≥5 months
Janssen	≥18 years	1	1	NA	≥2 months

†An 8-week interval may be optimal for some people ages 12 years and older, especially for males ages 12 to 39 years. A shorter interval (3 weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; 4 weeks for Moderna) between the first and second doses remains the recommended interval for: people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised; adults ages 65 years and

older; and others who need rapid protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.

Note: for those moderately to severely immunocompromised, the interval between primary 3 dose series and the booster dose is ≥ 3 months for the two mRNA vaccines (instead of 5 months).

- Vidprevtyn-Sanofi/GSK Covid Vaccine
 - Sanofi and GSK announced positive results from phase 3 trials enrolling more than 10,000 adults in several continents.
 - A separate study assessing a third dose of the vaccine as a booster is still ongoing although when used as a booster in a mix and match format after one of the other available Covid vaccines, antibody levels rose 18-30 fold.
 - Similar to the Novavax vaccine which has had an EUA requested recently, the new vaccine which will be called Vidprevtyn is a protein subunit vaccine. Likewise, it can be stored at refrigerator temperatures, making access easier in areas of the world that don't have access to ultracold storage.
 - The new vaccine had lower effectiveness against symptomatic illness compared to the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines, but it should be noted that it was tested during times when both Delta and Omicron were circulating. With that said, (2) doses given 3 weeks apart had the following data:
 - 58% effective at preventing Covid-19 symptoms
 - 75% effective at preventing moderate or severe Covid-19
 - 100% effective against severe Covid-19 disease, including hospitalizations
 - The vaccine, one of four candidates that received billions of dollars from Operation Warp Speed was reported to be safe and well-tolerated by adults.
 - Sanofi and GSK were expected to seek authorization last year, but initial results were disappointing and the joint companies had to reformulate a stronger version. They have already produced 100 million doses with plans to supply up to an additional 400 million more doses.

Cases & Numbers (as of 2/25/2022)

- National
 - All but 7 US states are in the “High Transmission” (Red) Tier.
 - Nevada, Nebraska, Ohio, New York, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey are now in the Substantial Transmission (Orange Tier)
 - [CDC Level of Community Transmission by State](#)
 - [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#)
- State
 - At the state level, average daily case rates decreased with a slowing trajectory over the past 7 days (11,213 vs 12,892) compared to the previous report.
 - CA as a state remains in the “High Transmission” (Red) tier
- Local

- In San Diego, average daily case rates decreased over the past 7 days (846 vs 1,172) compared to the previous reporting period.
 - San Diego remains in the “High Transmission” (Red) tier.
 - Covid Community Level: High (Orange) level
 - This week, San Diego hit the somber milestone of 5,000 Covid attributed deaths since the pandemic began.
- In Riverside, average daily case rates decreased over the past 7 days (564 vs 869) compared to the previous reporting period.
 - Riverside remains in the “High Transmission” (Red) tier.
 - Covid Community Level: Low (Yellow) level

My Words of Wisdom message:

- **Don’t Wait—It’s not too late—Please Vaccinate-And Get Your Booster Too!**

CDC & Public Health Words of Wisdom:

- **Avoid Crowds, wear masks if crowds cannot be avoided**
- **Do NOT come to work with any symptoms**
- **If unvaccinated, don’t travel**
 - **If you do travel, test upon return**

In today’s edition, we have some updates on new and existing topics for the following:

- Vaccimeter
- Covid Cases (1 **NEW** Staff & 0 **NEW** Clinician Cases)
- School Decision & Childcare Decision Trees
- Rady Town Hall News
 - No Town Hall This Week
- Covid Testing Options
- SARS Co-V-2 Strain Mutations (updated)
- The Quest for Immunity-Vaccination Information (repeated)
- Monoclonal Antibody Regional Centers (MARC’s)

RISK LEVEL-INCIDENT COMMAND

- Risk Level: 4
- Healthcare Strategy: Conventional
- Updates:
 1. Indoor Masking: mandatory regardless of vaccination status.
 2. High Volume Scheduling: now effective

COUNTY COVID-19 TRIGGERS

- Please click the Triggers [Scorecard \(SD County\)](#) to see how San Diego is doing with all 13 of the criteria metrics across the 3 categories. As of **2/23/22** (updated weekly), San Diego is currently failing 4 metrics.
 - **Case Rate**: >1.9 per 100,000 for the 7-day average case rate: **38.6 (down from 64.2 last week)**
 - **Community Outbreaks**: >7 new outbreaks in community settings in a 7-day period: **58 (up from 57 last week)**

- **Case Investigation:** 70% or less of investigations are initiated within 24 hours of notification over a 7-day period: **69.1% (increased from 46.0% last week)**
- **Testing Positivity:** Greater than 8% of positive tests as a percent of total tests, measured using specimen collection date in a 7-day period with a 7-day lag: **9.4% (decreased from 13.4% last week)**

VACCIMETER (as of 2/25/2022)

	% ≥5 y/o 1 or More Doses	% ≥5 y/o Fully Vaccinated	Booster Dose Received	Comments
National CDC Vaccine Tracker	81.1%	68.9%	49.9%	
California CA Vaccine Tracker	82.9%	73.6%	56.4%	
San Diego SD Vaccine Rate	92.6%	81.4%	54.3%	
Riverside RS Vaccine Rate	68.1%	61.1%	29.8%	(for 12 y/o and above)

- **5-11 y/o Covid vaccine:** As of 2/24/22, CPCMG offices have administered more than 14,400 Covid vaccine doses.

COVID CASES (as of 2/25/22)

- **CPCMG (Clinician) COVID Positive cases (confirmed): 47**
 - 0 NEW Clinician Cases:
- **RCPMS (Staff) COVID Positive Cases (confirmed): 266**
 - 1 NEW Staff Cases:
 - 266 A vaccinated and boosted PSR developed congestion progressing to cough, headache and sinus pain after a potential exposure to a family member who was sick, but was not tested with the PSR testing positive on a clinic antigen test. There were no identified breaks in PPE and no identified high risk internal exposures.
 - 8 of 266 positive cases that are possibly work-related exposure (worker to worker). 5 cases in question had identified breaks in PPE or social distancing protocols and the others had suspected brief breaks in PPE protocols.
- **CPCMG Patient COVID Positives & Interesting Cases**
 - As of 2/21/2022: >11,714 (↑85 in the past week). This number does not include patients testing positive at County sites or hospital labs outside of the Rady, Quest or Lab Corp network.

Week	Patients COVID POSITIVE	Week	Staff COVID POSITIVE	Clinicians COVID POSITIVE	Unvaxxed With Exemption	Vaccinated Without Booster	Vaccinated And Boosted
12/21-12/27	204	12/17-12/23	4	0	2	2	0
12/28-1/3/22	708	12/24-12/30	24	2	3	20	3
1/4-1/10	1,273	12/31-1/7/22	31	6	2	27	8
1/11-1/17	2,600	1/8-1/14	28	5	2	14	17
1/18-1/24	827	1/15-1/21	28	5	0	8	25
1/25-1/31	418	1/22-1/28	12	2	1	3	10
2/1-2/7	202	1/29-2/4	2	3	0	0	5
2/8-2/14	119	2/5-2/11	1	0	0	1	0
2/15-2/21	85	2/12-2/18	3	0	0	1	2
2/22-2/28	pending	2/19-2/25	1	0	0	0	1

Riverside County Weekly Update Total [Covid Cases](#): 589,545 (as of 2/24/22)

Riverside County Total Pediatric (0-17 y/o) Cases: 104,349 (17.7% of cases)

average # of new daily cases over the previous report	869
average # of new daily cases over the past 7 days	564↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 9.0% (↓ from 13.9%)

San Diego County Total [Covid Cases](#): 735,522 (as of 2/24/22)

San Diego County Total Pediatric (0-19 y/o) Cases: 160,581 (21.8% of cases)

average # of new daily cases over the previous report	1,172
average # of new daily cases over the past 7 days	846↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 6.5% (↓ from 9.9%)

Statewide Total [Covid Cases](#): 8,349,967 (as of 2/24/22)

Statewide Total Pediatric (0-17 y/o) Cases: 1,575,955 (18.9% of cases)

average # of new daily cases over the previous report	12,892
average # of new daily cases over the past 7 days	11,213↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 3.8% (↓ from 5.6%)

MIS-C: 817 (↑8) total cases as of 2/14/2022

Total Pediatric Deaths in CA: 19 (< 5 y/o) and 36 (5-17 y/o)

SCHOOL DECISION & CHILDCARE DECISION TREES

The school decision tree is linked as follows: See [COVID-19 > Health Practices > Guidelines for Schools \(sdcoe.net\)](#). It has been last updated February 7th.

- SDCOE e-decision tree (updated 2/7/2022): <https://limesurvey.sdsc.edu/limesurvey/index.php/255916?newtest=Y&lang=en>
- For the [Childcare COVID Decision Tree](#) click the hyperlink for the most up to date decision tree updated last on January 21st

RADYS TOWN HALL NEWS (courtesy of Dr. Bradley/Dr. Pong/Chris Abe)

- No Town Hall this week!

SARS CO-V-2 STRAIN MUTATIONS (updated)

There is now a new variant classification from the CDC:

- [Variant of Concern \(VOC\)](#) – Includes the Delta variant (B.1.617.2 & sub lineages) & Omicron variant (B.1.1.529)

Origin/Lineage Name: Variants Being Monitored (VBM)	Name
British-B.1.1.7	Alpha
South Africa-B.1.351	Beta
Brazil-P.1	Gamma
CA-B.1.427/B.1.429	Epsilon
Brazil-P.2	Zeta
Multiple-B.1.525	Eta
Philippines-P.3	Theta
NY-B.1.526	Iota
India-B.1617.1	Kappa
Peru-C.37	Lambda
Colombia-B.1621	Mu

CA Variant [Tracker](#) & [Outbreak.info](#) & [CDC CA Breakdown](#)

CA Variants as of 2/24/22	BA1.1 (Omicron)	BA.1 (Omicron)	(Other Lineages)
Lineage % (over 30 days)	72%	26%	2%

COVID TESTING OPTIONS

[State of CA COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)

[San Diego County Testing Website-Self Scheduling Options](#)

[San Diego County Testing Sites](#)

[Riverside County Public Health Testing Sites](#)

[County of Riverside Funded Testing Locations](#)

Rady Children's:

- **COVID Drive Through Testing**
 - 8001 Frost Street (parking lot near the vaccine clinic)
 - Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., seven days a week

- Complete an order for your patients in Epic OR have your patient self-order: <https://redcap.rchsd.org/surveys/?s=XXPXJTT9MD>
- Call 858-966-8399 Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm for a drive through appointment
- **Walk in Testing at the MOB**
 - 3030 Children’s Way; San Diego, CA 92126
 - Hours are 7:30-5:00 M-F, 9-1 on Saturday
 - Wait times have been as long as 2-3 hours
- Fill out the testing request form first then call 858-966-8399 Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm
- Patient filled out request: <https://redcap.rchsd.org/surveys/?s=XXPXJTT9MD>

We also learned that the Private Covid Clinic: www.covidclinic.org is offering no-cost testing for people that have been exposed and cannot easily get an appointment with CPCMG or one of the State/County offerings. Some CPCMG providers have gone themselves and there has not been a charge for PCR testing.

Most recently, one of our physicians referred the private Hummingbird Covid Testing centers to us as an option (with PCR testing provided by Marquis Labs). <https://hummingbirdrx.com/> Please note that their website says “By DHS” which is a little misleading. This is not the Department of Health Services, but is actually Discovery Health Services. They have locations in Carmel Valley, La Jolla and Oceanside. Appointments are suggested, but some sites can take walk-ins.

THE QUEST FOR IMMUNITY-VACCINATION INFORMATION

San Diego County COVID-19 Vaccine Web Page: [San Diego County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

CA COVID-19 Vaccine Web Page: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

CDC V-Safe Registration: <https://vsafe.cdc.gov/>

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Special Considerations: [CDC Interim Clinical Considerations](#)

CA My Turn: <https://myturn.ca.gov/> (use google)

CA Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record: <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Errors/Deviations: [CDC Covid Vaccine Errors/Deviations](#)

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Info for Parents of Children &

Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/adolescents.html>

AAP COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ’s: [AAP About the COVID-19 Vaccine: FAQ's](#)

CDC Pediatric Professional COVID-19 Vaccine Tool

Kit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/pediatrician.html>

Regional Covid Clinic Clinical

Direction: <https://cpcmg.knowledgeowl.com/help/covid-vaccine-administration-guidelines>

COVID Anti-Viral Med Locator: <https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY REGIONAL CENTERS (MARC'S)

Refer COVID-19 patients at high-risk for disease progression for monoclonal antibody treatment as early as possible in their disease, for greatest effectiveness while their symptoms are still mild or moderate.

- **San Diego:** To access, have you or your patients call: **619-685-2500**.
 - [Health Professionals: MARC's-San Diego County](#)
 - [Public: MARC Treatment Page](#)
- **Riverside:** No MARC's, but Riverside University Health System, phone number 951-486-6520 has been able to accommodate.

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS HAVE REPEATED GUIDANCE FROM PREVIOUS COVID CHRONICLES EDITIONS (thanks to Dr. Jacobson, they are now hyperlinked)

- **School Covid Decision Tree:** [COVID-19 > Health Practices > Guidelines for Schools \(sdcoe.net\)](#)
- [TESTING-FALSE POSITIVE EVALUATION \(last 12/11/2020\)](#)
- [NEWBORNS & COVID-19 POSITIVE MOTHERS \(last 7/31/2020\)](#)
- [IN CLINIC ALBUTEROL & NEBULIZER GUIDANCE \(last 9/4/2000\)](#)

CPCMG/RCPMS OCC HEALTH: Email: RCPMS_OHN@rchsd.org
Phone: (858) 502-1134

Knowledge Base

Please visit the [CPCMG Knowledge Base](#) for all sign-ups, knowledge articles, and tip sheets.

Thanks,

-KM

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