

10-28-2022

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

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

Sent: Friday, October 28, 2022 4:26 PM

Subject: CPCMG/RCPMS COVID CHRONICLES 10/28/2022 (edition #224)

These are every other week updates (COVID Chronicles Edition #224) for all CPCMG and RCPMS staff. Other valued community members which include all CPMG affiliates and Rady's 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

I'm back from my Pediatric CME in Kauai and managed not to get flu or Covid while traveling on a plane for 5-6 hours. My wife and I were amongst the very few wearing masks on the plane. I did get in a day of fishing before returning home landing some mahi mahi (dorado) and an ono (wahoo). I was also called into action to remove a rather large stainless steel hook from the leg of the mate (the Captain's wife) who got impaled while trying to corral one of the mahi's. This does happen to be an area that I have experience with!

Have a Happy & Safe Halloween weekend for those that celebrate!

Quick Hitters

- Based on early lab studies conducted in Asia, the latest "escape variants" BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 suggest that they may be able to escape immunity from vaccines or past infections, but may not cause more severe illness. As you note the variant breakdowns further down in the Chronicles, both of these variants are showing the fastest growth.

Future Pandemic Responses-The White House Response

On October 18th, the White House [unveiled](#) a strategy to bolster the nation's ability to respond to future pandemics and other biological threats, including an objective to manufacture enough of a new vaccine to protect the population within 130 days of a new outbreak. The strategy sets out to:

- Detect pandemics and other biological threats

- Prevent outbreaks from becoming epidemics and prevent biological incidents before they happen
 - Stopping outbreaks at their source through strengthening global health security
 - Strengthening laboratory biosafety and biosecurity
 - Deterring use and development of bioweapons
- Prepare for pandemics and other biological incidents...Over the next 5-10 years, the strategy aims to:
 - Enable testing within 12 hours, surge tens of thousands of diagnostic tests within one week, and develop rapid diagnostics within 90 days
 - Develop vaccines within 100 days; manufacture enough vaccine for the population of the United States within 130 days; and work with international partners to develop sufficient vaccine supply for high-risk global populations within 200 days; and,
 - Accelerate therapeutic development and validation to repurpose existing drugs within 90 days or develop novel therapeutics within 180 days.
- Rapidly respond to outbreaks when they occur
- Recover from a pandemic or biological incident

The White House said achieving all of the strategy's objectives will require additional Congressional support, including the \$88 billion over five years President Joe Biden requested in March as part of the budget for fiscal year 2023. Past government administrations have focused on pandemic preparation, but the fiscal and government commitment has changed as the administration has changed election to election.

The Quest for Immunity

- **Bivalent Boosters**
 - We learned the following from the State this past week via the CDC:
 - Pfizer may have **single dose vials** of the 12 y/o and above vaccine by as early as Thanksgiving (this could be a real game changer for administering vaccine on the same day when other vaccines are due without worrying about batching doses)
 - Pfizer is still working on non-diluent vaccines for all ages
 - < 5 y/o bivalent vaccines may be out as early as Christmas or early 2023
 - All primary series and booster doses will transition to bivalent sometime in 2023
 - At **CPCMG**:
 - We expect that clinician ordered Covid bivalent boosters down to 5 y/o can commence as early as Monday, 10/31/22.
 - We expect that clinical support visits can begin to administer Covid bivalent boosters (via standing orders) down to 5 y/o as early as Monday, 11/7/22.
 - Note: vaccinations may vary from site to site based on availability and site specific procedures/capacity.

- For Health Care Workers: While strongly encouraged at CPCMG/RCPMS, the Bivalent Covid-19 vaccine is not mandatory at this time.
- **Novavax as a Booster**: Last week the FDA authorized using the Novavax vaccine as a booster dose for people ages 18 years and older who have completed their primary vaccination series have not received any previous booster dose(s).
- **Covid Vaccination Status (VACCIMETER)**: As of 10/13/22, CPCMG offices have administered more than 32,200 Covid vaccine doses (mostly in the 5-11 y/o and the 6 m/o-4 y/o age groups).
- **Covid Vaccine Mandates**
 - All HCW's continue to be required to be "fully vaccinated" (see revision re definition above) unless they have a medical or religious exemption (which can be extended in some cases when appropriate).
- **COVID Vaccines Coming to VFC-NEW!**
 - On October 19th, the ACIP recommended that COVID-19 vaccines be added to the VFC program once Federal funds run out. Following the panel's vote, the misinformation train blew an explosion of steam when certain media members reported that children wouldn't be able to attend school without a COVID-19 vaccine once it made the VFC list. Of course, there are only 3 states with school vaccine mandates (and this is not determined by the ACIP) and none of the 3 currently have the COVID vaccine as a mandated shot among those mandated.

Masking Guidelines

- Note: states can choose to be more restrictive and at this point, CDPH has chosen not to follow CDC guidance with regards to healthcare workers. Currently as of 9/30/22, there are no changes for us in CA.

Masking and COVID-19 in California: When is Masking Recommended? When is it Required?

- Masking is required at all times in healthcare facilities.

Cases & Numbers (as of 10/28/2022)

- National
 - As of October 28th, there have been more than 97.3 million Covid cases reported to the US.
 - CDC 21-Day Trends in US COVID-19 Cases: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>
 - As of October 19th, the Covid case 21-day average (39,803) fell 30.9% compared to the previous 21-day average (57,564)
 - As of October 26th, the Covid case 21-day average (37,683) fell 25.1% compared to the previous 21-day average (50,328)

- For the week ending October 29th, the CDC variant projected estimates for new cases (looking back over 4 weeks): <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>
 - BA.5: 79.2%-->67.9%-->62.2%-->49.6%
 - BQ.1: 5.7%-->9.4%-->14.0%
 - BQ.1.1 5.7%-->7.2%-->13.1%
 - BA.4.6: 13.6%-->12.2%-->11.3%-->9.6%
 - BF.7: 3.4%-->4.6%-->5.3%-->6.7%-->7.5%
 - BA.5.2.6: 2.8%
 - BA.2.75: 1.8%-->1.3%-->1.6%-->1.8%
 - BA.2.75.2: 1.4%-->1.3%-->1.2%
 - BA.4: 0.8%-->0.6%-->0.4%-->0.2%
- State
 - At the state level, average daily case rates decreased over the past 14 days (2,872 vs 3,317) compared to the previous reporting period.
- Local
 - In San Diego, average daily case rates decreased over the past 14 days (227 vs 265) compared to the previous reporting period
 - COVID-19 Weekly
Update: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/COVID-19_Daily_Status_Update.pdf
 - [San Diego Wastewater Surveillance - SEARCH \(searchcovid.info\)](#) levels were at 3.8 million viruses/liter on 10/11/22, 1.2 million viruses/liter on 10/18/22 and pending on 10/25/22 at the [Pt. Loma treatment facility](#).
 - In Riverside, average daily case rates decreased over the past 14 days (141 vs 153) compared to the previous reporting period.

Dr. Morris, CDC & Public Health Words of Wisdom:

- **Don't Wait—It's not too late—Please Vaccinate-And Get Your Booster Too!**
- **Avoid Crowds, wear masks if crowds cannot be avoided**
- **Do NOT come to work with any symptoms**
 - **You are not a pest, if in doubt, please test!**
 - **If you have symptoms and your test is negative, this is not a license to come to work!**
- **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:

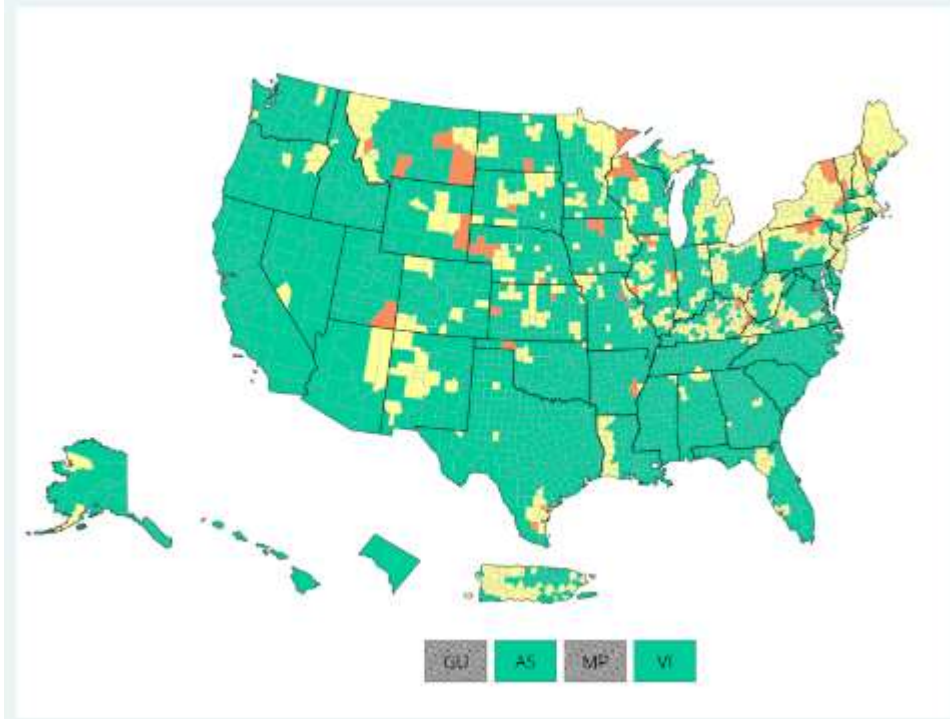
- Covid Cases (6 **NEW** Staff & 1 **NEW** Clinician Cases over the past 2 weeks)
- School Decision & Childcare Decision Trees
- Rady's Town Hall News
- Covid Testing Options
- SARS Co-V-2 Strain Mutations (updated)
- The Quest for Immunity-Vaccination Information (repeated)

RISK LEVEL-INCIDENT COMMAND

- CPCMG/RCPMS Risk Level: 4
- Healthcare Strategy: Conventional
- Updates:
 1. Indoor Masking: mandatory regardless of vaccination status.
 2. High Volume Scheduling: currently effective
- CDC Covid Community Level: (for determining community guidelines)
 - San Diego: Low (**Green**)
 - Riverside: Low (**Green**)
 - CA: The entire state of CA is in the **Green** now for the first time in months

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
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County



- [CDC Covid Transmission](#): (healthcare guidelines are based on transmission)
 - San Diego: Substantial (**Orange**)
 - Riverside: Moderate (Yellow)

Determining Transmission Risk

If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days*	<10	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of positive NAATs tests during the past 7 days**	<5%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

COVID CASES (as of 10/28/22)

- **CPCMG (Clinician) COVID Positive cases (confirmed): 106à107** (since the last Chronicles)
- **RCPMS (Staff) COVID Positive Cases (confirmed): 438à444** (since the last Chronicles)
 - 1 NEW Clinician 6 NEW Staff Cases:

- We are up to (5) staff who have had Covid three or more times with two of the five reportedly having had Covid four separate times.
- 11 of 550+ positive cases that are possibly work-related exposure (worker to worker). 8 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 10/24/2022: >14,158 (↑43 two weeks ago and ↑39 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. It also does not include home antigen testing of course.

Riverside County Weekly Update Total Covid Cases: 698,387 (as of 10/27/22)

Riverside County Total Pediatric (0-17 y/o) Cases: 119,994 (17.2% of cases)

average # of new daily cases with the previous report	153
average # of new daily cases over the past 14 days	141↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 5.6% (↓from 6.9% 2 weeks ago)

San Diego County Total Covid Cases: 929,549 (as of 10/27/22)

San Diego County Total Pediatric (0-19 y/o) Cases: 195,201 (21.0% of cases)

average # of new daily cases with the previous report	265
average # of new daily cases over the past 14 days	227↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 4.24% (↓from 4.56% 2 weeks ago)

Statewide Total Covid Cases: 10,499,008 (as of 10/27/22)

Statewide Total Pediatric (0-17 y/o) Cases: 1,885,022 (18.0% of cases)

average # of new daily cases with the previous report	3,317
average # of new daily cases over the past 14 days	2,872↓

7 Day Test Positivity Rate: 4.1% (↓from 4.7% 2 weeks ago)

MIS-C: 1,025 cases as of 10/11/2022 (↑14 cases in the past month)

Total Pediatric Deaths in CA: 26 (↑0 for < 5 y/o) and 53 (↑0 for 5-17 y/o) as of 10/25/22

SCHOOL DECISION & CHILDCARE DECISION TREES

The school decision tree is linked as follows: [SDCOE School Decision Tree](#). It has been last updated **September 1st**.

- SDCOE e-decision tree (updated 9/1/2022): <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 **October 4th**.

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

No current town hall news to report

Rady’s Vaccine Clinic

- Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 7am-5pm
 - <https://scheduling.rchsd.org/rchsd-family> (password: cares2021) or by
 - Epic MyChart or by
 - <https://myturn.ca.gov/>

SARS CO-V-2 STRAIN MUTATIONS (updated)

There is now a new variant classification from the CDC:

- **Variant of Concern (VOC)**: characterized by being more contagious, likely to cause more severe symptoms, resistant to treatment and more resistant to vaccines.
 - Omicron variant (B.1.1.529, BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5 lineages)
- **Variants Being Monitored (VBM)**: potential or known effect on treatment, more severe symptoms, increased transmission

Origin/Lineage Name: Variants Being Monitored (VBM)	Name
British-B.1.1.7 & Q lineages	Alpha
South Africa-B.1.351 & descendent lineages	Beta
Brazil-P.1 and descendent lineages	Gamma
B.1.617.2 and AY lineages	Delta
CA-B.1.427/B.1.429	Epsilon
Brazil-P.2	Zeta
Multiple-B.1.525	Eta
NY-B.1.526	Iota
India-B.1617.1	Kappa
Colombia-B.1.621, B.1.621.1	Mu

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

CA Variants as of 10/28/22	BA.5.2.1 (O)	BA.5.1 (O)	BA.5.2 (O)	BA.5 (O)	BA.4.6 (O)	Other
Lineage % (over 30 days)	25%	13%	17%	7%	5%	34%

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](#)
- [Test to Treat Locator Map](#)

[Home Antigen Test Expiration Date Extensions-FDA](#)

Rady Children's:

- **COVID Drive Through Testing (as of 8/6/2022)**
 - 8001 Frost Street (parking lot near the vaccine clinic)
 - Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. M-F & 7 a.m.-11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday
 - 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>

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](#)

CDC Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine & Age Transitioning: [Pfizer Age Transition-Younger to Older Age Group](#)

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

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

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

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/>

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedules & Timing by Age (Routine & Immunocompromised)

- **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-vaccine-schedule-at-a-glance-508.pdf>
- **CDPH:** <https://eziz.org/assets/docs/COVID19/IMM-1396.pdf>

CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Product

Guide: <https://eziz.org/assets/docs/COVID19/IMM-1396.pdf>

THE FOLLOWING 3 TOPICS HAVE REPEATED GUIDANCE FROM PREVIOUS COVID CHRONICLES EDITIONS (thanks to Dr. Jacobson, they are now hyperlinked from the CPCMG Health Hub)

- [TESTING-FALSE POSITIVE EVALUATION \(last 12/11/2020\)](#)
- [NEWBORNS & COVID-19 POSITIVE MOTHERS \(last 7/31/2020\)](#)
- [IN CLINIC ALBUTEROL & NEBULIZER GUIDANCE \(last 10/28/2022\)-REVISED](#)
 - Note: revision to suggest a 1-hour room closure instead of 2-hour closure
- [CDC HIGHER RISK CONDITIONS FOR SEVERE COVID ILLNESS \(as of 6/15/2022\)](#)

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CPCMG Health Hub Intranet

Please visit the [CPCMG Intranet - Children's Primary Care Medical Group](#) for all sign-ups, knowledge articles, and tip sheets.

Thanks,

-KM

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Pronouns: he/him ([why this is here](#))

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