



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Omicron Update – Vaccine, Prevention, and Treatment

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Background

The purpose of this Health Advisory is to urge clinicians in Marin County to prepare for the Omicron-driven surge in COVID activity.

Yesterday, 112 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Marin County, the highest number in nearly one year, and triple last week's average rate. This is consistent with an Omicron-driven transmission pattern. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced](#) that Omicron now accounts for over three quarters of SARS-CoV-2 infections nationally, compared to one week ago when it accounted for one in ten infections.

Last week, Omicron was detected in all wastewater sampling catchments in Marin County, and the first confirmed case was reported. Marin County Public Health estimates that, by the end of the year, the Omicron variant will be causing nearly all new local infections and anticipates the highest daily case counts since the start of the pandemic.

Today, the Governor [announced](#) that all healthcare workers and all employees in high-risk congregate settings will be required to obtain a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before February 1, 2022.

Starting now, healthcare providers should anticipate increased volume of patients seeking advice or evaluation for COVID-19 infection. A recent survey of Marin residents found that most residents who are tested seek testing due to COVID-19 symptoms, and most seek isolation and quarantine guidance from their health care provider.

Marin hospitalization data affirms the importance of COVID-19 vaccination of all eligible residents and the prioritization of boosters for older residents. More than 90% of fully vaccinated persons who are hospitalized in Marin are 55 years or older. The evidence that individuals who are fully vaccinated, but not yet boosted, remain at high risk for Omicron infection adds to the urgency to offer booster doses to all eligible residents, especially those at highest risk.

Actions Requested of Health Care Providers

Vaccine

1. Recognize that the public is being directed to seek vaccinations from their healthcare providers as a standard of care.
2. All Marin primary and urgent care providers who have not yet enrolled should immediately enroll in the [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) with the goal of offering clinic-based COVID-19 vaccines and boosters no later than January 3, 2021.
3. Providers should identify eligible unvaccinated patients and unboosted patients 55 years and older and offer clinic-based vaccinations as soon as possible.
4. Any primary care or urgent care provider who cannot meet the standard of providing clinic-based vaccines should refer patients to <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccinefinder> for vaccine appointments. Due to high demand, patients may need to wait up to 2 weeks or travel outside of the county for a vaccine appointment.

Prevention

1. Following the [new state order](#), all healthcare providers and all employees in high-risk congregate settings must to receive the COVID-19 booster by February 1.
2. Advise those who are unvaccinated or who have not yet received a booster dose, especially those at [higher risk](#), to reconsider travel and participation in indoor gatherings with other households.
3. Advise staff and patients to get tested 3 – 5 days after participating in a high-risk activity and monitor for symptoms.
4. When patients who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 reach out for advice, emphasize the need for 10 days of isolation and counsel them to inform their close contacts. More information can be found at <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/isolation-and-quarantine>

Treatment

1. Review [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#). [Monoclonal antibody therapy](#) (MAB) is recommended in the [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#). Early [pre-clinical data](#) suggests effectiveness of sotrovimab against the Omicron variant. MCPH will begin receiving federal allocations of sotrovimab.
2. Primary and urgent care provider should develop capacity to provide outpatient MAB treatment immediately. Contact MHOAC@marincounty.org to confirm readiness for allocations.
3. MCPH will provide updates on the process for allocating scarce medical resources, including MAB, when finalized by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).