COVID-19 Variants Circulating in Imperial County

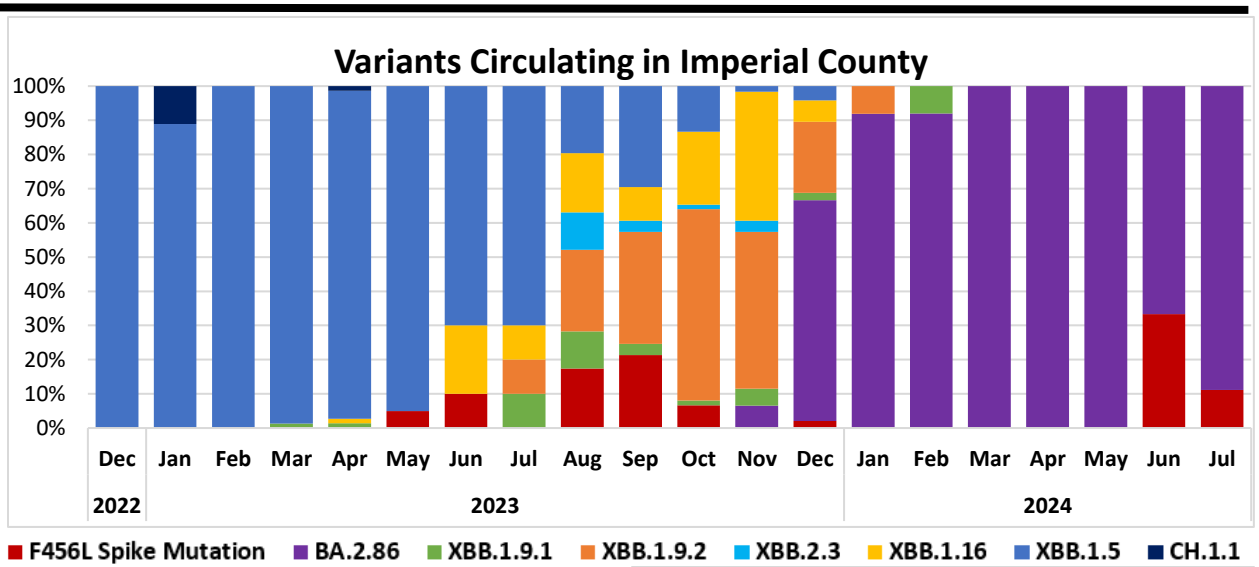
Updated 08/01/2024

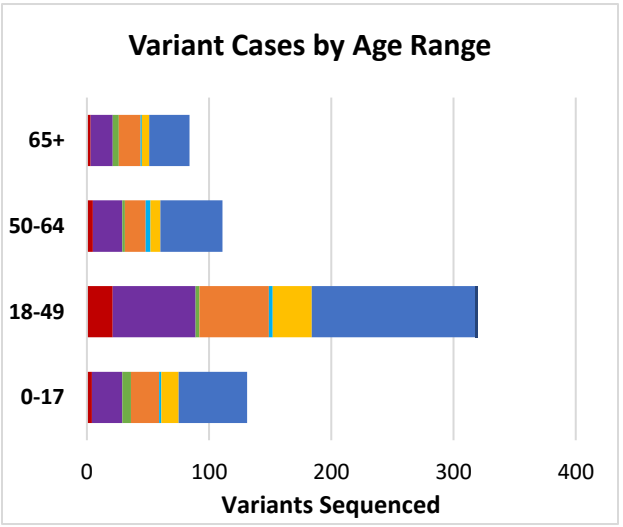
COVID-19 Variant Update:

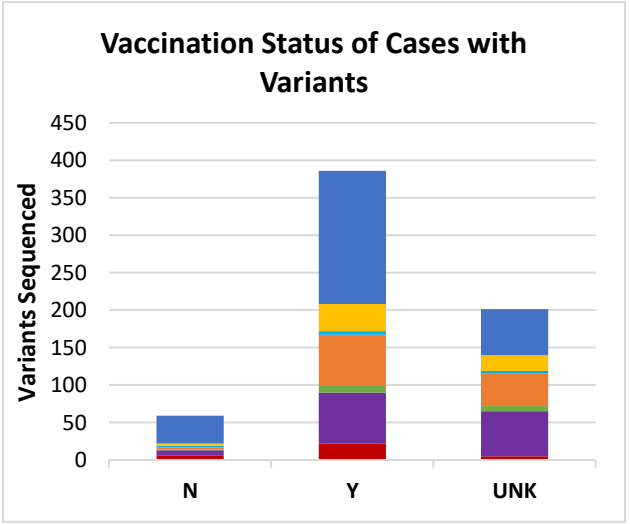
- This report follows California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for characterizing emerging variants to monitor their potential impact on vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
- Viruses like SARS-CoV-2 continuously evolve as changes in the genetic code occur during replication of the genome. Over the course of the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 has consistently mutated, resulting in different variants from the original virus.
- Lineages or groups of related lineages may be classified using Greek letters (such as Omicron) by the World Health Organization (WHO). These classification methods enable scientists to communicate similarities and differences between SARS-CoV-2 viruses.

WHO Label	Pango Lineage	Current Status*	Variant Sequences
N/A	Variants Containing F456L Spike Mutations**	VOI	33
Omicron	BA.2.86	VBM	135
	XBB.1.9.1	VBM	17
	XBB.1.9.2	VBM	115
	XBB.2.3	VBM	10
	XBB.1.16	VBM	60
	XBB.1.5	VBM	274
	CH.1.1	VBM	2
	BA.2.74	VBM	0

*VOC=Variant of Concern, VOI=Variant of Interest, VBM=Variant Being Monitored
**Many lineages have acquired the F456L mutation and common examples include EG.5, FL.1.5.1, and XBB.1.16.6.







- **Note: Not all positive tests are sequenced for variants, case counts do not show the exact number of variants circulating in Imperial County but are used to estimate current variant proportions.**
- **For a full report on variants no longer in circulation, go to: COVID-19 Data - Imperial County Public Health Department (icphd.org)**
- **For more information on variant classifications, please visit: SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions (cdc.gov)**