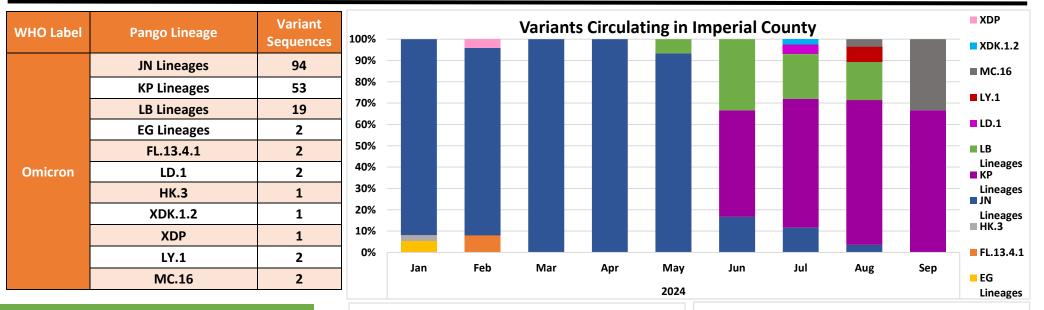


COVID-19 Variant Update:

- 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.
- This report shows data from locally reported variant sequencing results from laboratories serving Imperial County. The purpose of this report is to inform the community on circulating variants as well as track which variants are most prevalent locally.



- 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 information on national and regional variant proportions, please visit the <u>CDC</u> <u>COVID Data Tracker: Variant Proportions</u>
- For a full report on variants no longer in circulation, go to: <u>COVID-19 Data - Imperial</u> <u>County Public Health Department (icphd.org)</u>

