## Testing Taskforce: New California COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths



Avg. test positivity past 7 days 12.7%, Down 1.9% from last week

Cases have fallen from the peak although test positivity remains high

14 day average hospitalizations seem to have plateaued and have started to decline but are at 4.5 times the previous level

7 day average deaths remain at low levels.

8/6: 97% of molecular tests resulting in less than 48 hours.

August 9, 2022 with data as of August 8, 2022. <u>https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/\_\_https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/</u> COVID-19 Cases Dashboard v2.0 - CA OpeNn Data | Tableau Pub

## Variant update

- BA.5 and its sub-lineages represent the most common variant of COVID-19 circulating in the US (91%) and California (91%).
- In the US and worldwide including Europe and Japan it has resulted in a surge of cases and hospitalizations
  - In Europe and in the US cases and hospitalizations are beginning to plateau and start to decline, in Japan cases and hospitalizations continue to rise
  - Prior exposure to different variants may explain variation amongst countries
- In the US there has been a rise in deaths approximately 300 per day from a prior baseline of 100 per day. In Japan and in Europe deaths increased by multiple times.
- The FDA has not reported any new failures to testing for antigen tests or molecular tests with BA.4/ BA.5. Molecular tests may show S gene target failure due to mutations at the spike protein. This measure may be used as a proxy for BA5 as BA.1 is no longer circulating.

## BA.2.75

The World Health Organization has not named it a variant of concern or officially assigned it a name and is closely tracking data on the strain.

First detected in India, cases are rising there but not dramatically. BA.5 is also present in India

BA.2.75 has multiple mutations in the spike protein of the virus which may increase infectivity and may evade the immune system.

1108 cases BA2.75 detected in India

80 cases in US and 16 are those are in California

## BA.4.6

- Defining spike mutation = **S:R346T**
- Mutation at this position within spike previously associated with immune escape
- A different substitution at this position, **S:R346K**, was the mutation that led to divergence of BA.1.1 from BA.1 earlier this Year.
- Moderate growth advantage over BA.5 16-21% over BA5.
- Most of BA4.6 cases are in the Midwest
- Will be watching
- Currently 4.7% of cases, 1.7% of cases in California
- BA.2.12.1 falling
- BA.2 almost non-existent
- BA.1 non-existent