

Testing Task Force Update

New tests reported: **207,259**

Average test positivity past 7 days : **2.5%**
down 0.2% from last week

Cases are rising in Europe and in the US as anticipated for the winter season

Average Turnaround time 0.9 days

Turnaround time < 2 days: 94%

Turnaround time < 1 day: 83%

Reported December 8, 2021 with data as of Dec 7, 2021.

<https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/> <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>

[COVID-19 Cases Dashboard v2.0 - CA Open Data | Tableau Public](#)

Omicron

- Current antigen and PCR tests should detect the Omicron variant
- Antigen tests bind to the nucleocapsid protein which has been unchanged with Omicron. The mutation in Omicron occurred at the spike protein. Antigen test companies are working to show that their tests work against Omicron. Abbott has made a statement that they think their antigen tests should work against Omicron.
- PCR tests with a primer to a non-spike region should also work against Omicron. PCR tests in general have multiple primers targeting different regions of the viral genome. This was done to case of mutation so some of the primers will still detect the virus. Most tests have a primer to the unchanged nucleocapsid region
- Thermofisher TaqPath tests will have a S gene or Spike gene drop out due to the mutation in Omicron at the spike region of the genome. This means that the Spike primer will not bind to the spike region of the genome due to mutation of the virus and will show up as not detected. However, the primers to the nucleocapsid region and the orf1a/b should still bind to the virus. Thus for the Thermofisher TaqPath assay one should see detected for orf1a/b and the Nucleocapsid gene and undetected for the Spike region.
- It is possible S-gene drop out will occur for other PCR tests. If this is occurring, labs should contact their local health department and work to send the specimen for sequencing.

CDC international travel guidance arrival testing



ALL Travelers

RECOMMENDED

- Get tested with a COVID-19 [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel.
 - Find a [U.S. COVID-19 testing location near you](#). [↗](#)
- Self-monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#); [isolate](#) and get tested if you develop symptoms.
- Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements after travel.



If You Are NOT Fully Vaccinated

RECOMMENDED

In addition to the testing recommendations above

- Stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if you test negative at 3-5 days.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.