

Coronavirus Update: Telebriefing for Institutes of Higher Education

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SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- We are in a much better place than we were a few months ago
- Community transmission has slowed, which has reduced hospitalizations
- Reporting 784 new confirmed cases of COVID 19 in LAC; 16 deaths
- Test positivity rate is at 1.1%
- Hospitalizations: 308 people are hospitalized, compared to 927 on March 1
- Community case rate is 66/100,000
- However, BA.2 is making its presence known and is very infectious
 - For the week ending March 12, 32% of sequenced specimens were BA.2
 - It is likely the majority of specimens now
 - Steps to avoid BA.2 from spreading across the County
 - Get vaccinated or boosted
 - If you can't get vaccinated/boosted, try one of the new therapeutics
 - Stock up on at-home testing kits
 - If you are sick, exposed or test positive, stay home and away from others
 - Continue to wear a mask in public places
 - It's not required but still recommended because it is one of the easiest things we can do

EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- Students: Those ending isolation after five (5) days, masking is RECOMMENDED for 10 days
- Staff: Those ending isolation after five (5) days, masking is REQUIRED for 10 days
- Students: Those who have been exposed, masking is RECOMMENDED for 10 days
- Staff: Those who have been exposed, masking is REQUIRED for 10 days

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. (Related to unions) What conditions will be required by the LACDPH before you can make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that emergency conditions no longer exist?

A. The declaration has advantages to it. The state of emergency is not only linked to risk levels but also gives us opportunities for funding and resources from the federal government. Emergencies evolve.

Q. Are masks required indoor for gatherings of 1,000 people or more?

A. It is not required, but recommended.

Q. Do we expect updated guidance for commencement?

A. Yes, there's a delay in finalizing that information, but it should be released early next week.

.Q. Should we expect another surge?

A. We are preparing for a rise but not a high surge spike. Those infected with the previous strain do still have a fair immunity against the new strain. They can get reinfected, but the risk is lower.