

## Coronavirus Update: Telebriefing for Institutes of Higher Education

Wednesday, December 7, 2022



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### SITUATIONAL UPDATE (Gilchick)

- **COVID-19**
  - 192 hospital admissions per day; admissions have increased 200 percent since 11/1
  - With Thanksgiving in our rear view and the next set of holidays coming up, take note of rising numbers with significant caution and care
  - There is a common line of thinking that the pandemic is over but the numbers speak for themselves: it is still with us
  - Using CDC community level framework, last week we moved into the “medium” community level
  - Case rate: 185 new cases/100,000 people
  - COVID: admission rate 11.9/100,000 new admissions
  - Omicron BA.5 is rapidly losing dominance
    - BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 – now 38% of all specimens
      - CDC estimates that these variants account for more than 55% specimens nationwide
  - The county is on pace to reach the “high” level very quickly. That will occur when the rate of new cases reaches 200 per 100,000 residents.
  - **The masking mandate would return if the county, as expected, enters the “high” community level, and if the county’s virus-related hospitalization numbers reach two thresholds:**
    - if the rate of daily hospital admissions tops 10 per 100,000 residents; and
    - if the percent of staffed hospital beds occupied by COVID patients tops 10%.
  - **When BOTH happen, indoor masking will return**
  - Reaching the high community level itself will not return us to the masking mandate:
  - Indoor masking remains “strongly recommended” by the county.
    - Public indoor spaces
    - Using public transit
  - Employers are required to provide well-fitting masks like KN95/N95

- **INFLUENZA**

- Already seeing signs of influenza and other respiratory diseases, which create demand on health care system
- 25 percent of specimens are showing influenza
- It's not too late to get vaccinated against influenza

#### **STAYING HEALTHY: COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS**

- Remember to wash hands frequently, especially after coughing or sneezing
- Masks remain an effective tool; indoor masking is a personal preference at this time in LAC
- Stay home if you have symptoms of respiratory disease and test for COVID--19
- Wipe down surfaces (a good practice for the winter)

#### **QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

Q. Other potential recommendations or requirements that may come down if we move into the "high" transmission category or meet the two hospitalization thresholds? What other things should we anticipate?

A. Gilchik: Nothing in the queue other than indoor masking mandate. You will not see mandates around vaccinations or physical distancing.

Q. Reaching the two metrics to move into high level, do you imagine we will hit those metrics by January?

A. Gilchik: Just speculating, based on current trends, yes, we might make the second hospital metric, and implement a new masking order.

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