

## Presentation Notes

Nancy Williams, Public Health Officer

Good morning board members.

I'll start with some **case rate updates**.

Rates are still technically over the current red-tier threshold 4/100,000, up from our recent low of 3.2/100,000 about 10 days ago, but have been holding pretty steady in the last week. According to the current Tier guidelines, we'd need to be below 4.0 per 100,000 for 2 weeks to be able to move into the Orange Tier...

However, the state is expected to announce reaching the next milestone of having administered more than 4 million doses to people in the Healthy Places Index Quartile 1 population. When that is announced, very likely today, the threshold between the Red and Orange Tiers will be raised to 6/100,000. When that happens, and because our testing positivity has already been in the orange range for a few weeks, we will officially be placed in the Orange Tier effective the following day, which could be tomorrow.

Next, I'll give a brief update on **monoclonal antibody treatment**. In recent board meetings, you've already heard testimonies from several people who have been treated by or have used them to treat patients and we believe their use has saved many lives in our county...

However, the growth of **virus variants is putting monoclonal antibody treatments at risk of decreased effectiveness**. Recently, the one used so successfully by Marshall Medical Center on elderly patients back in January – bamlanivimab – has been found *not* to be effective in treating people infected with the B.1.351 - South African-origin - variant. Accordingly, CDPH just issued recommendations not to use bamlanivimab *on its own*, but instead to use it in conjunction with a *second* monoclonal antibody or a different pair of monoclonal antibodies that have recently become more widely available. Of note, Yolo County just detected its first case of the worrisome South African origin variant in one of its residents. We are likely to see it here before long as well.

Regarding the virus variants, **cases involving the five variants of concern continue to increase in California**. They are a real threat as I already mentioned. Not only can the spread of variants make it more difficult to treat COVID, it may lead to the need for people to get boosters...

I just read this morning that some of the **rapid PCR tests used in hospitals are becoming less able to detect the B.1.1.7 - UK origin - variant**. Fortunately, these tests are designed to look for two different features of the virus and only one has been compromised so the tests still work. This is just one *more* example of how tenuous our situation is with respect to reaching the end of this pandemic and...

These are all reasons why it is critical for people to **continue to take precautions until as many people as possible can get vaccinated**. And why we need to continue to persuade as many hesitant people as possible to be vaccinated. We've said since well before they

became available that vaccination is the way out of this mess. That is still true. The end is in sight and I strongly encourage everyone to hang in there until we reach the end point. Yes, we are allowed to do more things now, but please, please, please, everyone... do them as **safely** as possible. It will help us get back to a state of normal much sooner.

The last couple of things...

Finally, although I'm not going to talk about this, because it has been requested by I will be giving Kim Dawson a document to post with the 'COVID update' board item that summarizes information about the effectiveness of the three vaccines available in the US.

Now I'll turn the presentation over to Public Information Officer Carla Hass to give an update on the most important topic of the day – the county's vaccination efforts.

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References:

Variants...

- **CDPH COVID-19 Variant Tracker** (data updated weekly on Thursdays): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-Variants.aspx>
  - **Variants of Concern in California:**
    - B.1.1.7: 851 cases
    - B.1.351: 10 cases
    - P.1: 35 cases
    - B.1.427: 3,072 cases
    - B.1.429: 6,287 cases

Concern for PCR tests (partially) not picking up variants...

Travel guidance...

CDPH Travel Advisory: [Travel Advisory \(ca.gov\)](#)

CDC Domestic Travel: [Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC](#)

CDC International Travel: [International Travel During COVID-19 | CDC](#)