



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 2, 2021

To: Medical Labs and Infection Prevention

From: Maggie Park, MD, Public Health Officer *mp*

SUBJECT: **SARS-Cov-2 Whole Genome Sequencing Surveillance**

Dear Health Partners,

The California Department of Health (CDPH) is encouraging health care providers collect and submit specimens for whole genome sequencing from individuals with SARS-CoV-2 virus infection.

San Joaquin Public Health Services is collaborating with the State's COVID-19 Net Program and is involved in the whole genome sequencing (WGS) surveillance of COVID-positive specimens **at no cost** to the submitter. **We are requesting you submit TWO original COVID-positive specimens EVERY WEEK and plan the shipment for arrival at the San Joaquin Public Health Laboratory BY WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY.**

Use one of these criteria for specimen submission or randomly select from COVID-19 positives:

- Recent international travel, especially to countries in which Omicron variant has been detected;
- Exposure to persons with recent international travel, especially to countries in which the Omicron variant has been detected;
- Specimens that show S gene target failure/dropout (SGTF) by polymerase chain reaction;
- Possible re-infection i.e., recurrence of symptoms with positive molecular testing at least 90 days after initial infection; or
- Infection >14 days after completing a vaccination series i.e., two doses of a mRNA Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

For information or questions regarding specimen transport, please call at (209) 468-3460.