

**MOTION**

Health experts continue to learn more about the omicron variant of COVID-19 since it was first detected in South Africa in late November of 2021. The omicron variant spread quickly once the first case was detected in California a month later. The variant became the dominant strain in the United States overtaking the highly contagious delta variant by December 20, 2021.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, omicron infection generally causes less severe disease than infection with prior COVID-19 variants. The presence and severity of symptoms can be affected by COVID-19 vaccination status, the presence of other health conditions, age, and history of prior infection. Data suggests that current vaccines are excellent protection against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the omicron variant.

As individuals infected with omicron began to rise, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health progressively required stricter COVID-19 controls, such as wearing higher quality face masks, limiting public gatherings, offering ample testing, and increasing the availability of vaccinations, all of which assisted in flattening the rate of infection. Omicron cases has been falling dramatically over the last month, with 4,360 cases reported on February 7, 2022

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health indicates that indoor mask requirements may ease once hospitalizations drop below 2,500 for seven straight days. State officials have also announced that it will likely lift its universal mask mandate, which will apply to counties without local mask orders of their own, such as San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. It is critical that visitors and residents of California can navigate consistent health department rules and regulations. As COVID-19 cases recede, public health departments should continue to focus its efforts on COVID-19 education and administering vaccinations.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council request that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the LAUSD Board of Education reevaluate the indoor mask mandate in light of the State's latest announcement; and, inasmuch as COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations have significantly decreased among residents of Los Angeles County.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



JOE BUSCAINO

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SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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