



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
**PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY**

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**Contact:** Rick Rosen, MD, MPH, [frosen@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:frosen@co.slo.ca.us), 805-781-5500

**COVID-19 Treatment Update: Impact of Current Variants**

*Bebtelovimab shows decreased efficacy against current variants; Paxlovid remains first-line treatment option*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently reports that the BQ.1, BQ.1.1 and BF.7 strains of SARS-CoV-2 (all sublineages of the Omicron variant) represent 44.7% of sequenced samples in California and nearby states. Bebtelovimab is believed to have significantly decreased efficacy against these three strains.

While state and federal guidance has not called for a pause on bebtelovimab, the FDA has updated the [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet for bebtelovimab](#) with specific information regarding expected reduced activity against these subvariants. This information shows that bebtelovimab is not expected to neutralize Omicron subvariants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1.

It is important for providers to be aware of the potential for significantly decreased efficacy as these strains become dominant in our region.

As a reminder: the first-line treatment option for COVID-19 remains Paxlovid. The second-line treatment option for COVID-19 is Remdesivir.

**Updated FDA Fact Sheet for bebtelovimab:** [www.fda.gov/media/156152/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/156152/download)

**NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Clinical Management of Adults Summary:**  
[www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/management/clinical-management-of-adults/clinical-management-of-adults-summary](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/management/clinical-management-of-adults/clinical-management-of-adults-summary)

**COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Statement on Omicron Subvariants and Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Monoclonal Antibodies:**  
[www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/statement-on-omicron-subvariants](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/statement-on-omicron-subvariants)

**Stay Informed**

For local COVID-19 updates, visit [slopublichealth.org/covid19](https://slopublichealth.org/covid19).

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**Public Health Department**

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

[www.slopublichealth.org](https://www.slopublichealth.org)