

US MARKETS OPEN IN: 8H 42M 22S In the news

▼ Dow Jones	▼ Nasdaq	▼ S&P 500	▼ TSLA	▼ FB	▼ BABA
+1.4%	+3.03%	+2.07%	+4.24%	+1.55%	+1.5%

HOME > SCIENCE

# Dr. Fauci says the US could experience a fifth wave in COVID-19 infections as health officials warn about spread of Omicron

Yelena Dzhanova Nov 29, 2021, 12:30 AM



Dr. Anthony Fauci said the Pfizer booster shot would like have approval by September 20. CBS News/Face the Nation

Dr. Anthony Fauci said there's a chance the US might experience a fifth wave of

< HOMEPAGE

Subscribe

His warning comes as the new Omicron variant, first detected in South Africa, has spread to a number of countries

**spread to a number of countries.**

---

**Fauci said a surge is dependent on whether the US can get its vaccination rates up.**

---

**Get a daily selection of our top stories based on your reading preferences.**

Email address



**INSIDER**

Subscribe

---

By clicking 'Sign up', you agree to receive marketing emails from Insider as well as other partner offers and accept our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

---

Dr. Anthony Fauci on Sunday warned that the US might enter a fifth wave as the threat of the new Omicron variant looms.

"We certainly have the potential to go into a fifth wave," Fauci, the nation's topmost COVID-19 expert, told CBS News' "[Face the Nation](#)." "And the fifth wave, or the magnitude of any increase, if you want to call it that it will turn into a wave, will really be dependent upon what we do in the next few weeks to a couple of months."

He once again urged that Americans get vaccinated against the coronavirus, adding that they should opt for booster shots as well.

"If we do that successfully in a very intensive way, we can mitigate any increase," Fauci said.

"If we don't do it successfully, it is certainly conceivable and maybe likely that we will

[< HOMEPAGE](#)

Subscribe

So far, a little more than 59% of the total US population is vaccinated against the coronavirus, according to [data](#) compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Fauci has previously said that the US needs to [get up to around 90%](#) in order to achieve herd immunity.

Fauci's latest remarks come as the nation prepares to deal with the threat of the Omicron variant.

Scientists and health officials are warning the Omicron variant, first detected in South Africa, could spread easily across the world. It has already spread to several other countries, including Israel, Belgium, England, Australia and Austria, prompting [a spate of travel restrictions](#) across Europe, Asia, and [North America](#), Insider's Aria Bendix [reported](#). A health official said on Saturday that two cases of the variant have been [detected in the UK](#). And Fauci himself has said that it's [likely to have already touched down here](#).

The Omicron, labeled a "[variant of concern](#)," by the World Health Organization, poses a threat because of its unique mutations, which might withstand antibodies developed in the body after a COVID vaccine.

It's not clear yet whether existing COVID-19 vaccines will protect against the variant. But vaccine manufacturers, including [Pfizer](#) and [Moderna](#), have already begun considering their options.



**NOW WATCH: Dr. Anthony Fauci warned in a Senate hearing on Tuesday about the dangers of states reopening without following federal guidelines. Here's how he became the nation's top disease expert.**

[< HOMEPAGE](#)

[Subscribe](#)