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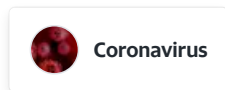


Most reported U.S. Omicron cases have hit the fully vaccinated - CDC

Mrinalika Roy

Sat, December 11, 2021, 2:26 AM · 2 min read

In this article:



By Mrinalika Roy

(Reuters) - Most of the 43 COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant identified in the United States so far were in people who were fully

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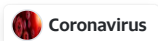
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The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that of the 43 cases attributed to Omicron variant, 34 people had been fully vaccinated. Fourteen of them had also received a booster, although five of those cases occurred less than 14 days after the additional shot before full protection kicks in.

While the numbers are very small, they add to growing concerns that current COVID-19 vaccines may offer less protection against the highly transmissible new variant.

The Omicron variant of the coronavirus has been found through testing in about 22 states so far after first being identified in southern Africa and Hong Kong in late November.

Among the Omicron cases, 25 were in people aged 18 to 39 and 14 had traveled internationally. Six people had previously been infected with the coronavirus.

Most of them only had mild symptoms such as coughing, congestion, and fatigue, the report said, and one person was hospitalized for two days. Other symptoms reported less frequently including nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea and loss of taste or smell.

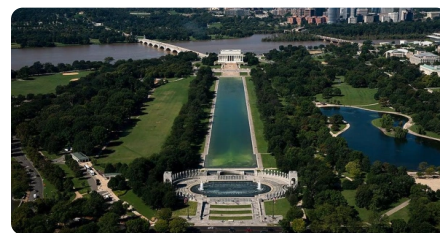
The CDC said that while many of the first reported Omicron cases appear to be mild, a lag exists between infection and more severe outcomes. Symptoms would also be expected to be milder in vaccinated persons and those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The first known U.S. Omicron case was identified <https://reut.rs/31M6TyW> on Dec 1 in a fully vaccinated person who had traveled to South

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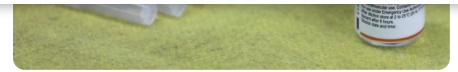
The Delta variant still accounts for more than 99% of all U.S. cases. But reports from South Africa show that the Omicron variant is very transmissible.

Even if most cases are mild, a highly transmissible variant could result in enough infections to overwhelm health systems, the CDC cautioned.

Laboratory studies released this week suggest that the Omicron variant will blunt the protective power of two doses of Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, although a third dose <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/biontech-pfizer-say-test-shows-3-doses-vaccine-neutralise-omicron-2021-12-08> may restore that protection.

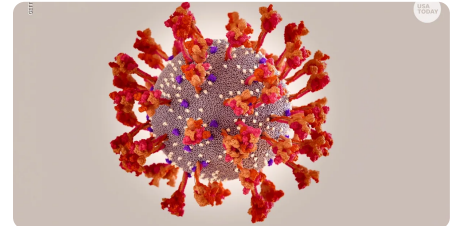
The U.S. has authorized COVID-19 vaccine booster <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/us-fda-authorizes-pfizerbiontech-booster-16-17-year-olds-2021-12-09>doses for all Americans age 16 and older.

(Reporting by Mrinalika Roy in Bengaluru; Editing by Caroline Humer and Bill Berkrot)



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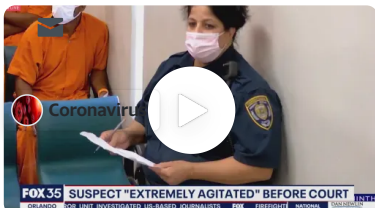


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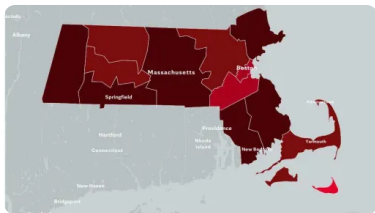


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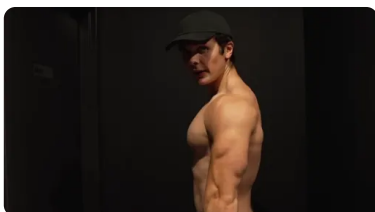


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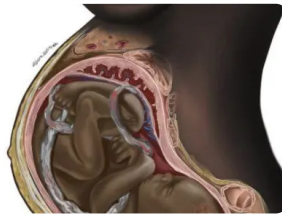
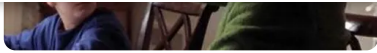
YouTuber and bodybuilder Will Tennyson breaks down the workout and diet he used to lean down during a recent month-long cut after gaining 20 pounds.

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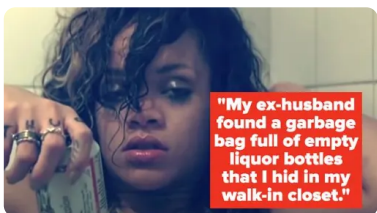
The CDC says a booster shot of the COVID vaccine appears to offer protection against the omicron variant, especially severe disease. Latest updates.
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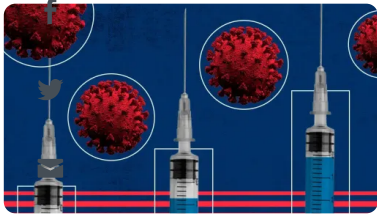
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Unvaccinated workers must come clean to employers under new Covid rules

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Percentage of U.S. nursing home residents who have received a COVID-19 booster

Weekly, Aug. 29 to Dec. 5, 2021



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Data: CDC; Note: From Aug. 29 to Sept. 26, 2021, facilities reporting 100% fully vaccinated individuals were excluded; Data for week ending Dec. 5 is still accruing, with 10,477...

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