

# Fact Sheet

# COVID Omicron Variant

HERE ARE SOME FAST FACTS TO HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT THE VARIANT:

## Why all the fuss?

OMICRON IS THE NEW VARIANT OF CONCERN THAT IS CAUSING A COVID SURGE IN BALTIMORE CITY AND BEYOND. REPORTS ARE SHOWING THAT THE OMICRON VARIANT IS MORE EASILY SPREAD THAN OTHER VARIANTS. THIS VARIANT ALLOWS FOR THE VIRUS TO ENTER CELLS MORE EASILY THAN PAST VARIANTS, MAKING IT EASY TO CATCH AND EASY TO SPREAD. IT IS NOW THE MOST DOMINANT VARIANT IN THE COUNTRY, JUST WEEKS AFTER IT WAS FIRST DETECTED.

## Am I at risk of getting the Omicron variant?

PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED ARE AT VERY HIGH RISK OF GETTING SICK FROM OMICRON, EVEN IF THEY HAVE HAD A PRIOR COVID INFECTION.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED BUT ARE PAST DUE FOR A BOOSTER SHOT (6 MONTHS AFTER FULL VACCINATION OF PFIZER OR MODERNA, 2 MONTHS FOR JOHNSON & JOHNSON) ARE AT HIGH RISK OF A BREAKTHROUGH INFECTION THOUGH THEY WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE HOSPITALIZATION OR DEATH

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A FULL VACCINATION AND A BOOSTER ARE THE MOST PROTECTED. ALTHOUGH BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS DO OCCUR, THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE SEVERE SYMPTOMS.

## Does Omicron cause less severe illness?

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO KNOW FOR SURE YET. OMICRON CAUSES SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS VARIANTS: COUGH, TIREDNESS, MUSCLE ACHE, SNEEZING, HEADACHE, SORE THROAT, AND OTHERS. MORE SEVERE SYMPTOMS LIKE DIFFICULTY BREATHING, CHEST PAIN, AND NEW CONFUSION ARE ALSO BEING REPORTED.

## STOP Omicron

1. GET THE VACCINE / BOOSTER
2. WEAR A WELL-FITTED MASK IN SHARED AND PUBLIC SPACES
3. KEEP 6 FEET OF DISTANCE
4. AVOID CROWDED SPACES
5. GET TESTED IF SICK

IF YOU START EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS AND/OR KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS POSITIVE WITH COVID, PLEASE LET A STAFF MEMBER KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE!

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