



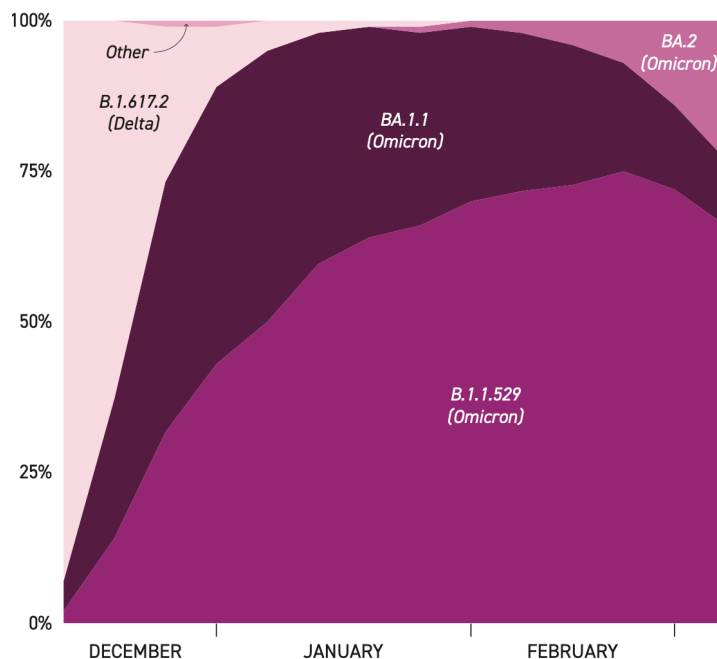
March 16, 2022

Indoor masks no longer required in 94% of counties

Ninety-four percent of counties across the U.S. have low and medium community levels of Covid-19 as of March 10, determined by using a county's new case and hospitalization numbers. That means masks are no longer necessary in those counties regardless of vaccination status, according to new CDC guidance. Covid-19 cases, deaths and hospitalizations are all on a downward trend. However, there was still a seven-day average of 1,186 new Covid-19 deaths recorded on March 14.

Three Omicron variants make up all Covid-19 cases

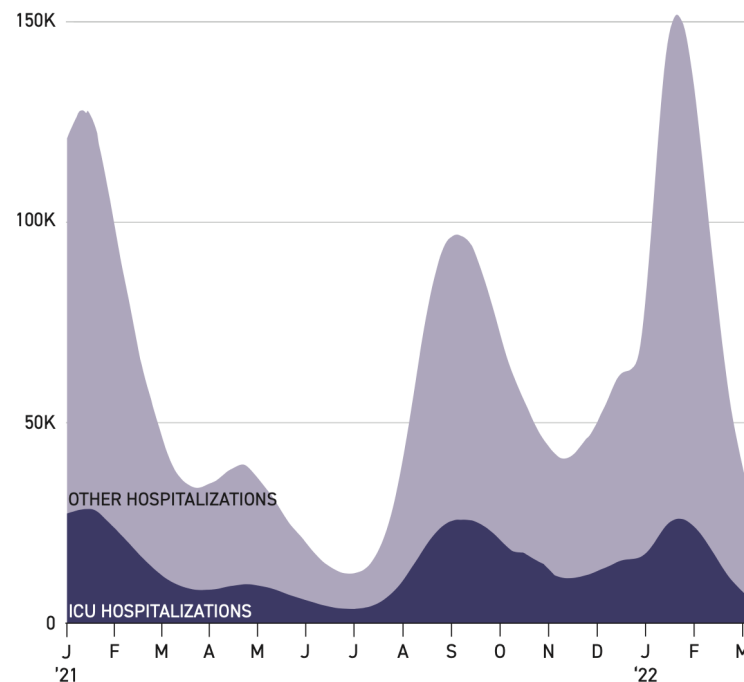
MOST COMMON VARIANTS, FROM THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 11 TO MARCH 12



*Data from the CDC Nowcast model estimates variant proportions that are retroactively adjusted. The 95 percent prediction interval for the most recent week ending March 12 are: For BA.1.1, 60.6 to 71.1 percent. For BA.2, 18.6 to 28.3 percent. For B.1.1.529, 9.1 to 12.8 percent.

Hospitalizations on par with last summer lull

NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19, SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE AS OF MARCH 13



Sources: CDC, HHS, POLITICO staff reports



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The latest in pandemic news

- The omnibus bill passed by Congress this week cut \$15.6 billion in Covid-19 relief funding that the National Institutes of Health had requested to run trials on Covid-19 treatments, tests and vaccines.
- Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla said a fourth Covid-19 booster shot will be needed and that the protection from three doses does not last long against a variant like Omicron.
- 81.5% of Americans 5 years and older have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.



Sources: CDC, HHS, POLITICO staff reports

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