

COVID-19 Update

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Monday, December 13th 2021

Pandemic Current State

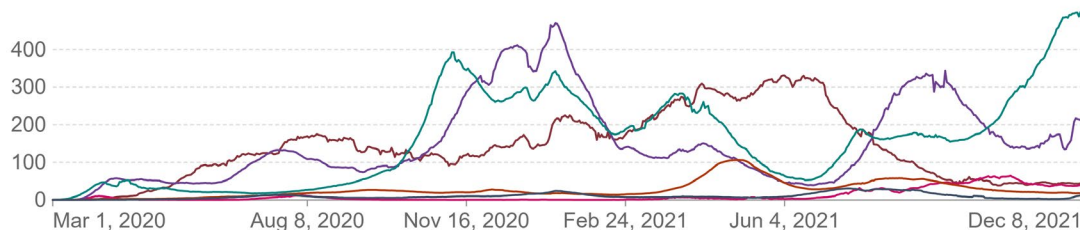
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases & deaths per million people

7-day rolling average. Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of cause of death means the cases and deaths counts may not be accurate.

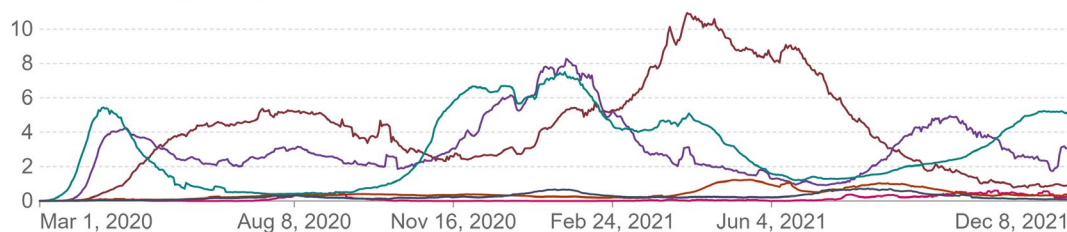
Our World
in Data

■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Europe ■ North America ■ Oceania ■ South America

New cases (per 1M)



New deaths (per 1M)



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

CC BY

- **Europe** – significant Delta surge with increasing cases and deaths
- **US** cases again increasing in most parts of the US due to Delta
- **South America** – low pandemic activity
- **Asia** – overall low activity – modest case rates in Malaysia, Vietnam and S. Korea
- **Australia/NZ**– modest surges as countries open up
- **Africa** – Surge in southern African countries from Omicron

Serious Pandemic for the Unvaccinated:

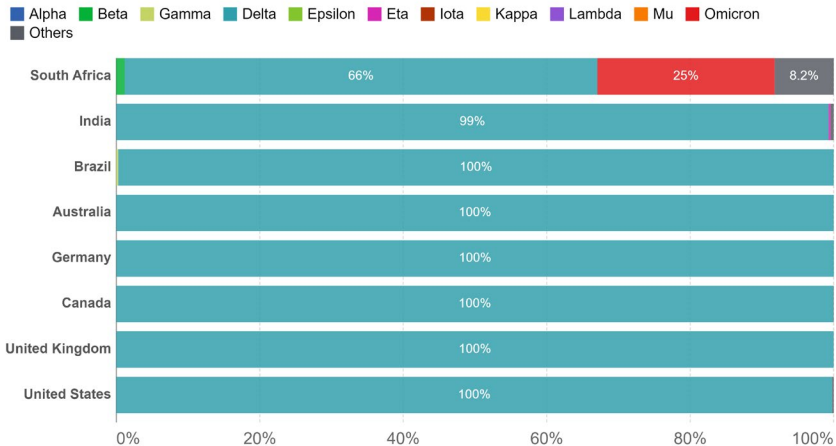
1. 5.8 times more likely to catch COVID
2. 14 times for likely to die if unvaccinated

CDC data - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>

Omicron Spread

SARS-CoV-2 sequences by variant, Nov 15, 2021

The share of analyzed sequences in the preceding two weeks that correspond to each variant group.



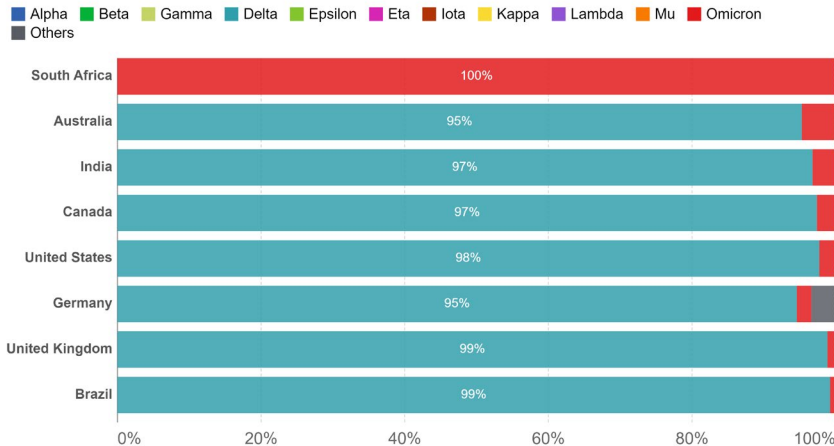
Source: CoVariants.org and GISAID

Note: This share may not reflect the complete breakdown of cases, since only a fraction of all cases are sequenced. Recently-discovered or actively-monitored variants may be overrepresented, as suspected cases of these variants are likely to be sequenced preferentially or faster than other cases.

Our World
in Data

SARS-CoV-2 sequences by variant, Dec 10, 2021

The share of analyzed sequences in the preceding two weeks that correspond to each variant group.



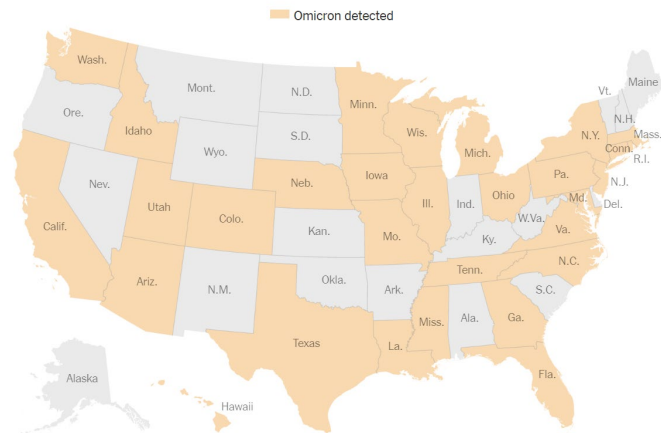
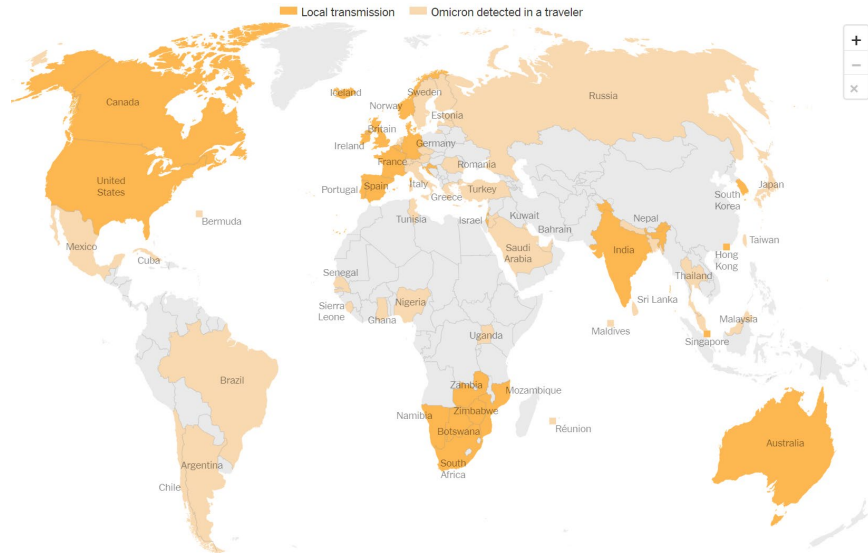
Source: CoVariants.org and GISAID

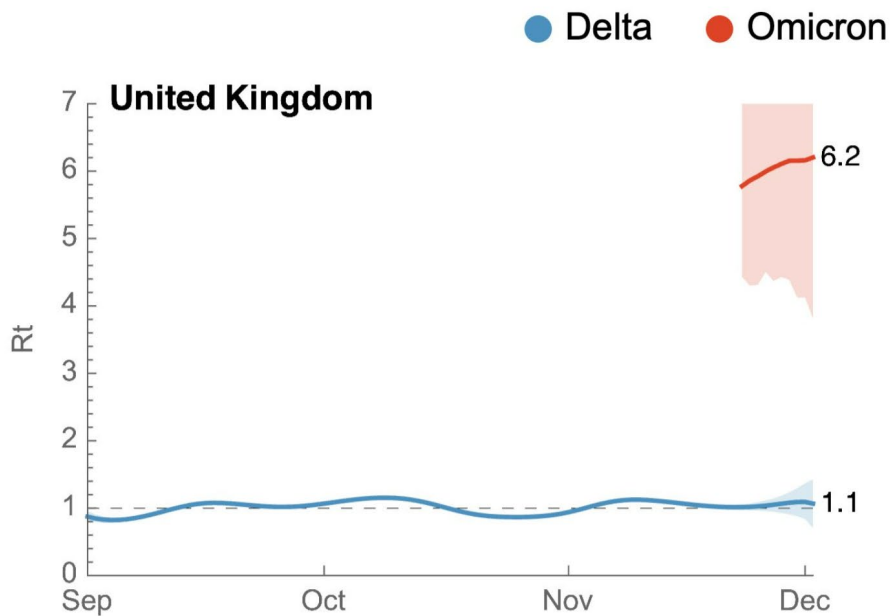
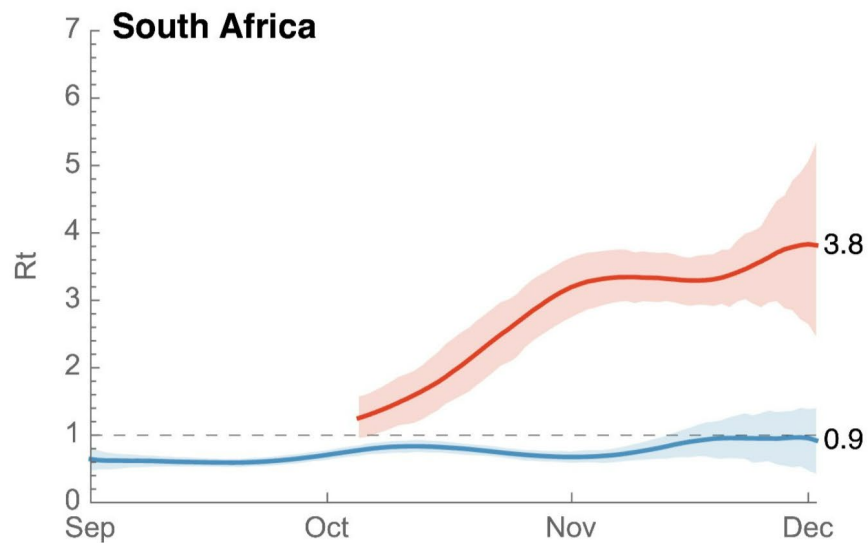
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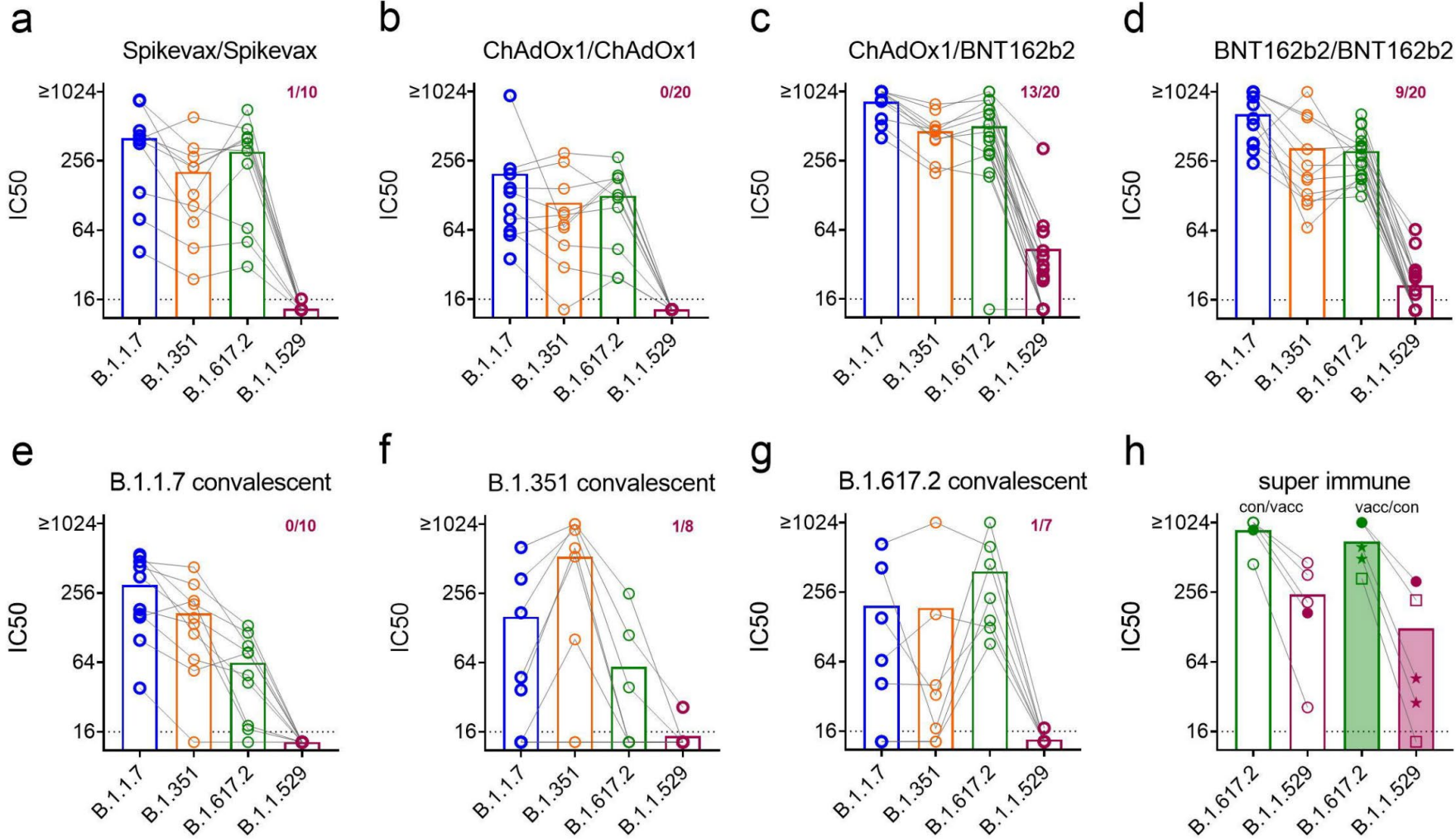
Our World
in Data

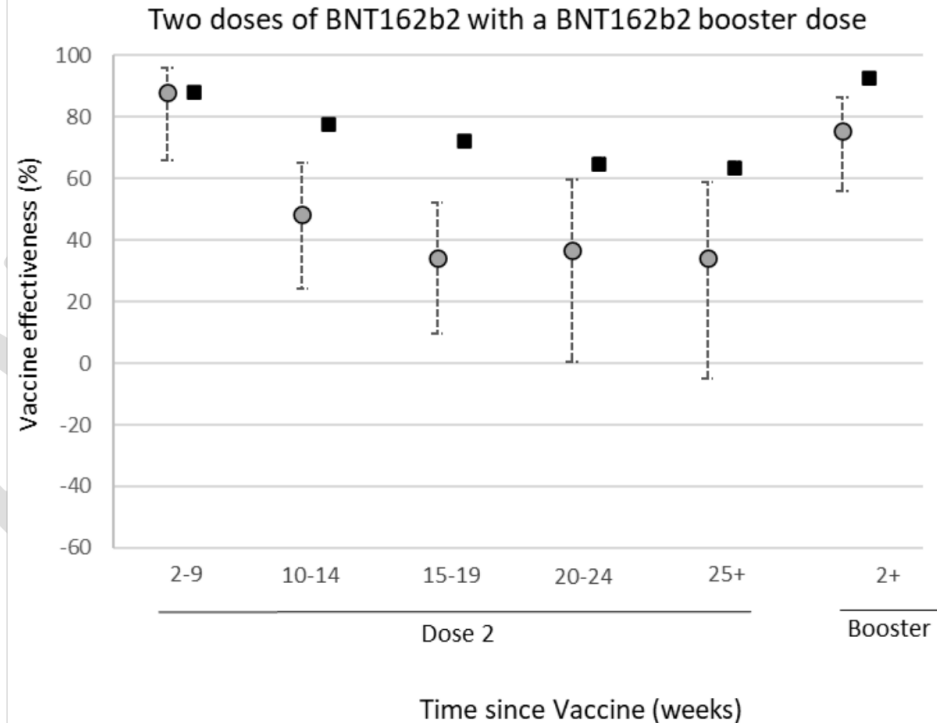
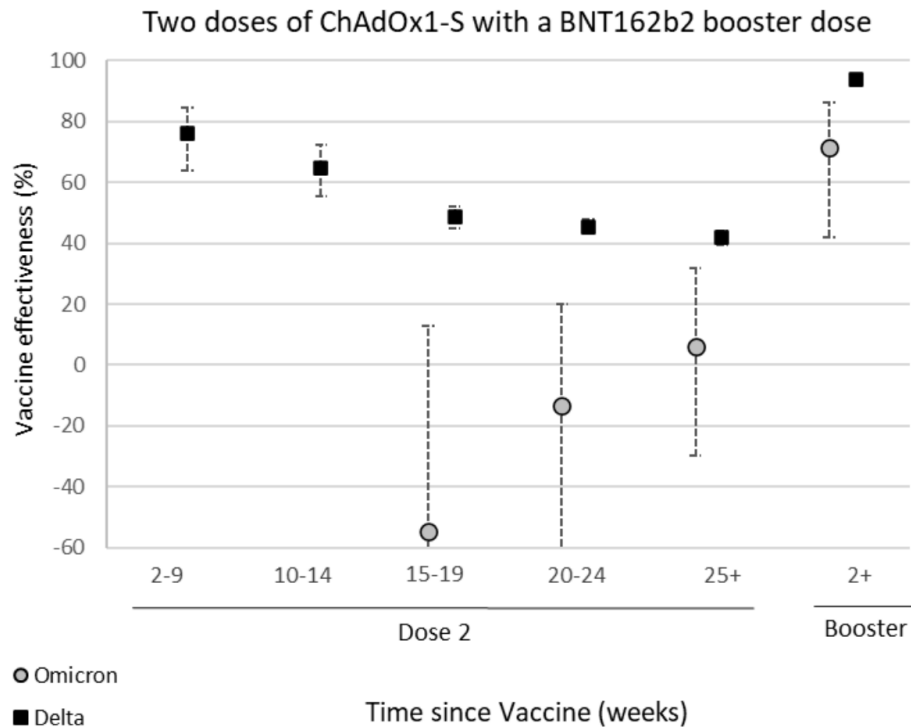
Omicron

- Already spread to 60+ countries and 27 US States
- Local transmission in several countries
- Evidence that it is more infectious than Delta
- Evidence that it can evade past infection with COVID
- Impact on vaccines:
 - Lab studies show impact on vaccines
 - 2 doses less effective but a booster does maintain effectiveness
 - Experts optimistic that vaccines will still protect against severe disease
- Encouraging early evidence that it may cause milder disease BUT too early to be certain
- Breakthrough infections do occur – unknown if at a similar or higher rate than with delta
- May have implications for future vaccines



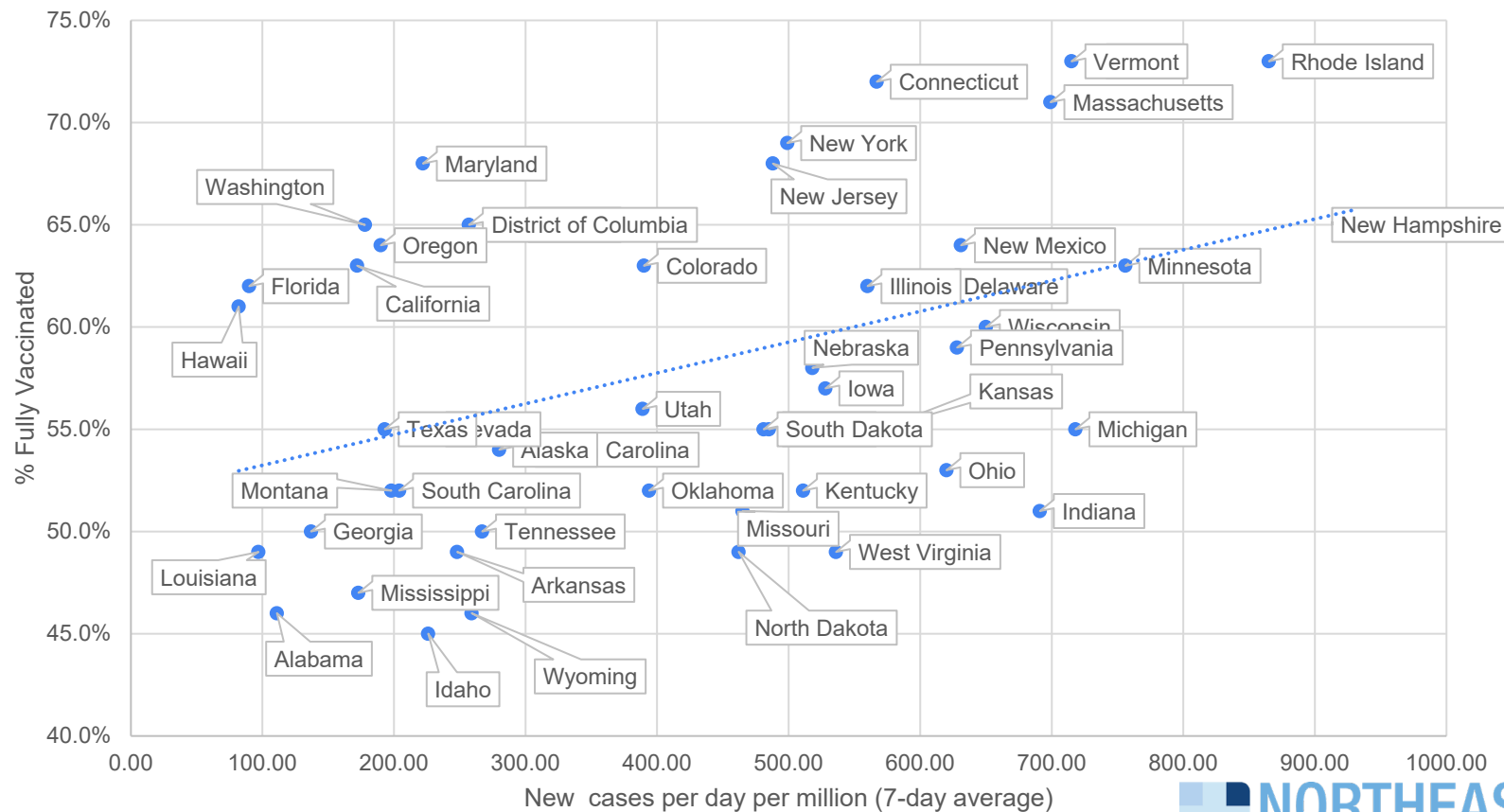






<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/430986542/Effectiveness+of+COVID-19+vaccines+against+Omicron+variant+of+concern.pdf/f423c9f4-91cb-0274-c8c5-70e8fad50074>

Fully Vaccinated Vs Case Rates



Daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people

7-day rolling average. Due to limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death, confirmed deaths can be lower than the true number of deaths.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

Omicron Implications

- Definition of “Fully Vaccinated” to include having a booster
- Vaccine mandates
- Return to office date
- Masking at work
- Testing
- Flexibility
- Meetings and holiday parties
- Business and personal travel
- Metrics
- Mental health

The background of the slide features several large, detailed, red coronavirus particles. These particles are spherical with a textured surface and are covered in numerous protruding, cone-shaped spikes. They are set against a dark red, slightly blurred background that also contains smaller, out-of-focus virus particles.

Questions

Upcoming NEBGH virtual events:

- **Dec. 16** – 27th Annual Tribute to Leadership
- **Dec. 20** – Monday COVID-19 Update w/ Dr. Mark
- **Jan. 12** – Maximizing PBM Savings: An Employer-Only Discussion