



# COVID-19 Major Variants<sup>1</sup> (in the U.S.)

	Original strain (or Wild-type)	Delta	Omicron (BA.1) and BA.2	BA.2.12 (Variant of Omicron)	<a href="#">BA.4 and BA.5 (Variants of Omicron)</a>
<b>U.S. timeline</b>	- March 2020 to June 2021 <a href="#">- Estimated 540,000 deaths</a>	- June to December 2021 <a href="#">- Estimated 274,000 deaths</a>	- December 2021 to May 2022 <a href="#">- Estimated 118,000 deaths</a>	April/May 2022 to June 2022	July 2022 to present
<b>What are typical signs of illness?</b> (Note: some folks with COVID do not have these signs of illness)	Loss of taste/smell, cough, fever, shortness of breath, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)	- Sore throat, cough, runny nose - Loss of taste or smell less common			<a href="#">More stomach problems, diarrhea, loss of smell</a>
<b>Incubation Period</b> <sup>2</sup>	Around 5 days	Around 4 days	2-4 days	To be determined	To be determined
<b>Number of people 1 person can infect</b> <sup>3</sup>	Around 3	6-7	7-14	To be determined	To be determined
<b>How severe is it?</b>		<a href="#">More severe</a> than the original strain	At least as severe as the original strain, though <a href="#">less severe than Delta</a> .	Possibly more severe than <a href="#">original strain</a>	In studies done on <a href="#">animals</a> , BA.4 and BA.5 may cause more severe disease
<b>How do vaccines work</b> <sup>4</sup>	Strong prevention of infection and severe disease	- Moderate prevention of infection - Strong prevention of severe disease	- Limited prevention of infection - <a href="#">Moderate to strong prevention of severe disease</a>		- To be determined - <a href="#">Lab data suggest limited prevention of infection</a>
<b>Does treatment</b> <sup>5</sup> <b>work?</b>	All treatments (Remdesivir, monoclonal antibodies, Paxlovid, etc) work.		Resistant to <a href="#">some monoclonal antibodies</a>		<a href="#">Resistant</a> to additional <a href="#">monoclonal antibodies</a>
<b>Am I protected if I already had COVID?</b>			<a href="#">Evades immunity built from other strains</a> (more easily infects vaccinated people or those who have had COVID)	<a href="#">Evades immunity built from earlier forms of Omicron (BA.1 and BA.2)</a>	- May have some power to evade immunity built from <a href="#">Omicron (BA.1 and BA.2)</a> - May have more power to evade immunity built from <a href="#">other variants</a>
<b>Public Health Impact</b>	The original virus that started the pandemic	Much <a href="#">more transmissible</a> than original strain	Causes high rates of hospitalization and death among <a href="#">among children</a> and <a href="#">the elderly</a> because it spreads and reinfects easily	When BA.2.12.1 was dominant, U.S. <a href="#">confirmed</a> over 100,000 cases daily, on average, for first time since February 2022	- U.S. continues to confirm over 100,000 COVID cases daily, on average - <a href="#">Doubled hospitalizations</a> since May 2022
<sup>1</sup> Alpha, which caused an <a href="#">estimated 40,000 deaths</a> in the United States from March-June 2021, is not included. <sup>2</sup> Time from exposure to testing positive; this helps you know when to test after an exposure.			<sup>3</sup> How many people each infected person will spread the virus to, on average, in a group with no immunity. The higher the number, the more infectious. Real-world numbers may be lower. <sup>4</sup> Vaccine effectiveness also depends on boosters, time since vaccination, age, and immuno-status. <sup>5</sup> Treatments include Remdesivir, Paxlovid, and monoclonal antibodies.		
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