## COVID-19 Major Variants (in the U.S.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original strain (or Wild-type)</th>
<th>Delta</th>
<th>Omicron (BA.1) and BA.2</th>
<th>BA.12 (Variant of Omicron)</th>
<th>BA.4 and BA.5 (Variants of Omicron)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. timeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>- March 2020 to June 2021</td>
<td>- June to December 2021</td>
<td>- December 2021 to May 2022</td>
<td>April/May 2022 to June 2022</td>
<td>July 2022 to present</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Estimated 540,000 deaths</td>
<td>- Estimated 274,000 deaths</td>
<td>- Estimated 118,000 deaths</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### What are typical signs of illness? (Note: some folks with COVID do not have these signs of illness)

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste or smell
- Pneumonia (infection in the lungs)
- Others could occur

More common:
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Pneumonia
- Loss of taste or smell
- Stomach problems, diarrhea

Less common but still can occur:
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Pneumonia
- Loss of taste or smell

### Incubation Period

| Incubation Period | Around 5 days | Around 4 days | 2-4 days | To be determined | To be determined |

### Number of people 1 person can infect?

| Number of people 1 person can infect? | Around 3 | 6-7 | 7-14 | To be determined | To be determined |

### How severe is it?

| How severe is it? | More severe than the original strain | At least as severe as the original strain, though less severe than Delta | Possibly more severe than original strain | In studies done on animals, BA.4 and BA.5 may cause more severe disease | - To be determined |

How do vaccines work?

| How do vaccines work? | Strong prevention of infection and severe disease | - Moderate prevention of infection | - Limited prevention of infection | - To be determined |

- Moderate prevention of infection
- Strong prevention of severe disease
- Limited prevention of infection
- Moderate to strong prevention of severe disease
- Resistant to additional monoclonal antibodies
- Resistant to some monoclonal antibodies

### Does treatment work?

| Does treatment work? | All treatments (Remdesivir, monoclonal antibodies, Paxlovid, etc) work. | Resistant to some monoclonal antibodies | Evades immunity built from earlier forms of Omicron (BA.1 and BA.2) | - May have some power to evade immunity built from Omicron (BA.1 and BA.2) |

### Am I protected if I already had COVID?

| Am I protected if I already had COVID? | The original virus that started the pandemic | Much more transmissible than original strain | Causes high rates of hospitalization and death among children and the elderly because it spreads and reinfects easily | When BA.2.12.1 was dominant, U.S. confirmed over 100,000 cases daily, on average, for first time since February 2022 |

- May have more power to evade immunity built from other variants

### Public health impact

| Public health impact | The original virus that started the pandemic | Much more transmissible than original strain | Causes high rates of hospitalization and death among children and the elderly because it spreads and reinfects easily | When BA.2.12.1 was dominant, U.S. confirmed over 100,000 COVID cases daily, on average, for first time since February 2022 |

- U.S. continues to confirm over 100,000 COVID cases daily, on average
- Double hospitalizations since May 2022

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1 Alpha, which caused an estimated 40,000 deaths in the United States from March-June 2021, is not included.

2 Time from exposure to testing positive; this helps you know when to test after an exposure.

3 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.

4 Vaccine effectiveness also depends on boosters, time since vaccination, age, and immuno-status.

5 Treatments include Remdesivir, Paxlovid, and monoclonal antibodies.

Last updated 7/17/22