

Get A 
Boost

COVID-19 UPDATE
DECEMBER 1, 2021

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Omicron Variant (B.1.1.529)

- **WHO declared variant of concern on Nov. 26**
- **South Africa**
 - **First case specimens from Nov. 12-16**
 - **Early reports indicate cases appear to be mild**
 - **Some S.A. cases reported to be vaccinated or have history of Delta infection**
 - **S.A. has ~30% of population vaccinated with at least 1 dose**

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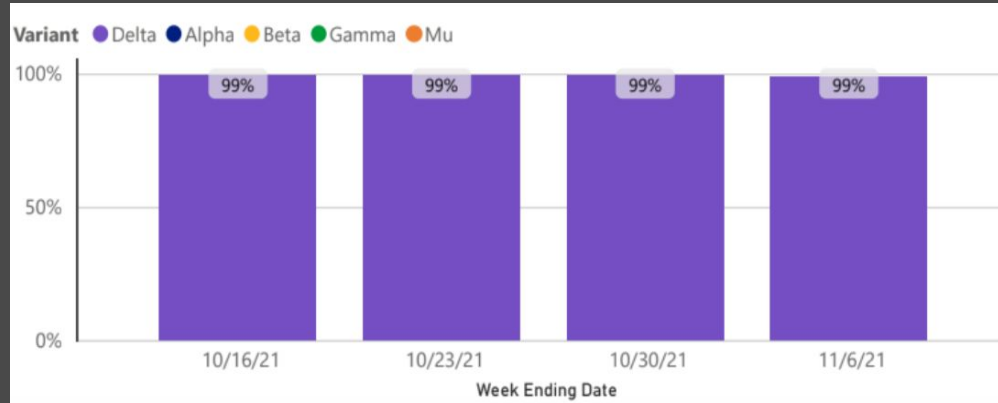
Unknown Impacts of Omicron

- **Vaccine Efficacy**
 - Lab tests with serum from vaccinated individuals pending
- **Degree of Transmissibility**
 - Rapid increase in sequenced cases in S.A. is concerning
- **Disease Severity**
 - Not yet known

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- Maryland testing for variants at nearly 3x recommended level
- Delta remains the dominant variant

Proportion of Sequenced Specimens Identified as VOC and VBM



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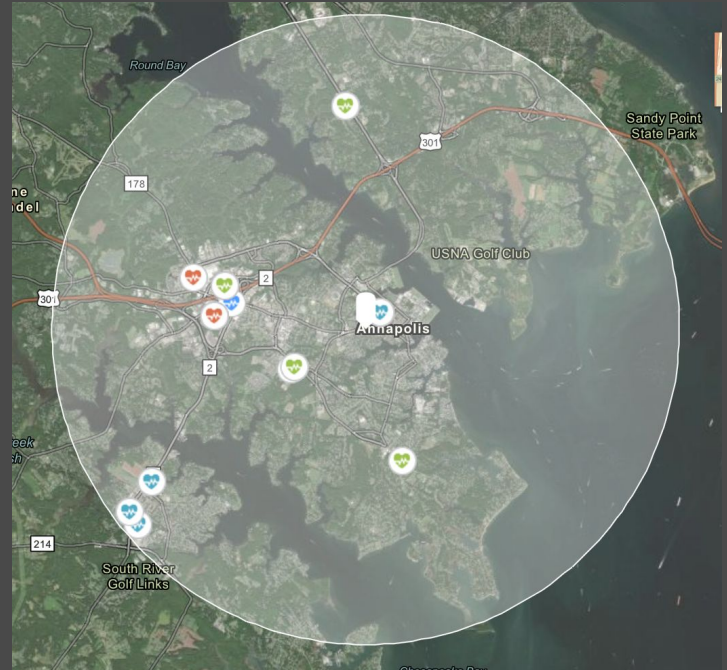
Today's Actions: Variant Surveillance

- **Further expanding variant surveillance with acquisition of new reagents and supplies**
- **Extending and enhancing partnership with UMD and Johns Hopkins to track and detect variants**

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COVID-19 Testing Available Statewide

- covidtest.maryland.gov
- Searchable by zip code
- 300+ sites available



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Today's Actions: At-Home Rapid Tests

- State previously announced 500,000 at-home rapid tests available through local health departments
- Rapid test kits to be available at the international terminal at BWI Airport



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The most important thing you can do right now to maintain immunity and protect yourself and your family from severe illness is to get vaccinated.

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NEARLY
9.4 MILLION
COVID-19 VACCINES

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Maryland has vaccinated:

- **99.9%** of seniors
- **88.9%** of adults
- Nearly **118,000** 5- to 11-year-olds

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Our team is working around the clock to get that last 0.1% of remaining seniors and the remaining 11.1% of adults in Maryland vaccinated.

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If you are already vaccinated,
the single most important
thing you can do to maintain
your immunity against this
virus and its variants is to get
your booster shot.

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MORE THAN
1 MILLION
BOOSTER SHOTS

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- All adults are eligible and encouraged to get booster shots
- No special categories or criteria

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BOOSTER?

What did you get?	When can you get a booster?	Who is eligible for a booster?
Pfizer	6 months after 2nd dose	18 years and older
Moderna		
Johnson & Johnson	2 months after single dose	



Call 855-MDGOVAX or visit covidvax.maryland.gov to schedule your booster appointment.

GoVAX
Let's end COVID, Maryland.



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Get a booster shot in the next 10
days to be fully protected by
Christmas.

Get A 
Boost

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