



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COVID-19 Press Briefing

May 18, 2021



Daily Change in COVID-19 Cases, US

January 22, 2020 – May 16, 2021

TOTAL Cases Reported Since 1/22/20

32,771,733

NEW Cases Reported to CDC on 5/16/21

17,724

Change in 7-Day Case Average

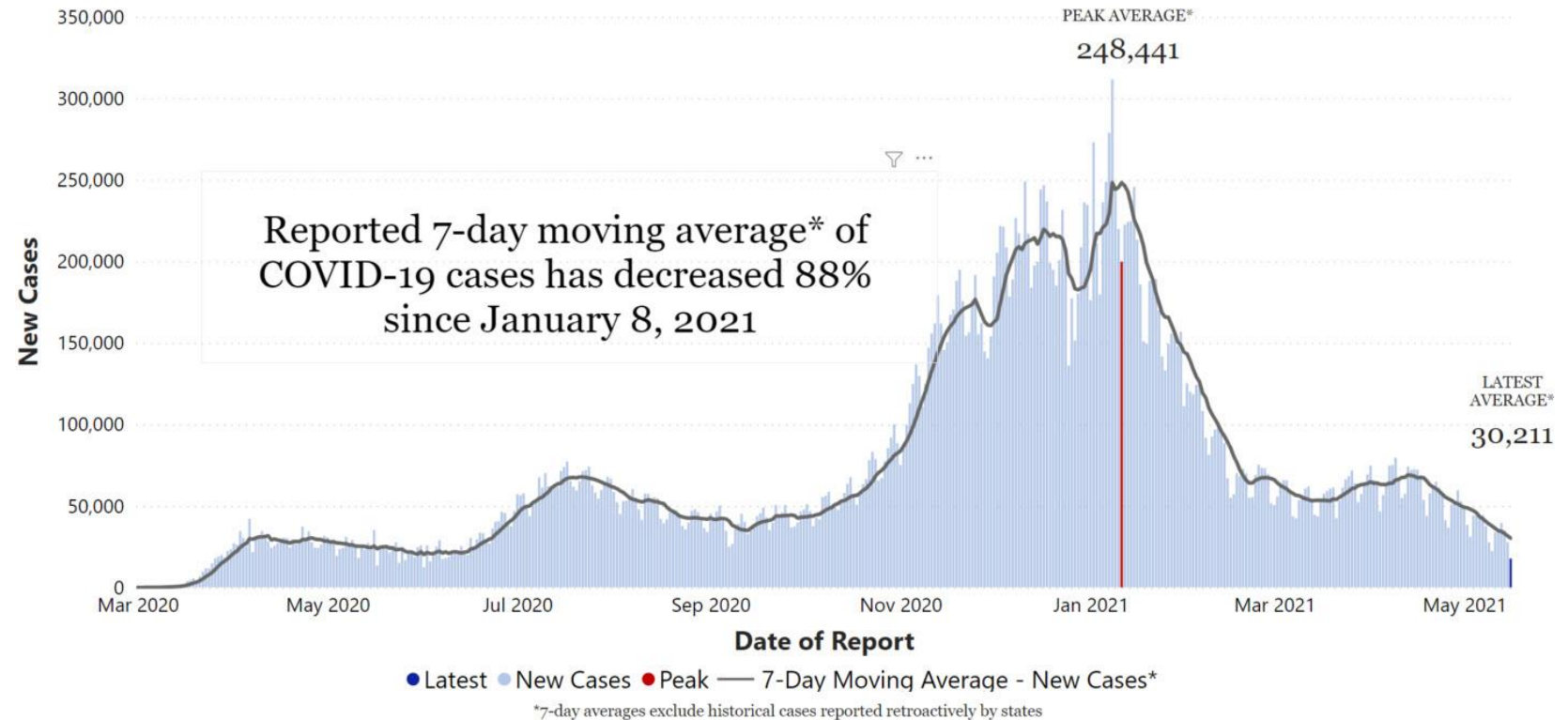
-22.4%

Current 7-Day Case Average (5/10/21 - 5/16/21)

30,211

Prior 7-Day Case Average (5/3/21 - 5/9/21)

38,925



New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19

August 1, 2020 – May 15, 2021

Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID on 5/15/21

19,545

New Admissions on 5/15/21

2,731

Peak in New Admissions (1/5/21)

18,162

Change in 7-Day Average of New Admissions

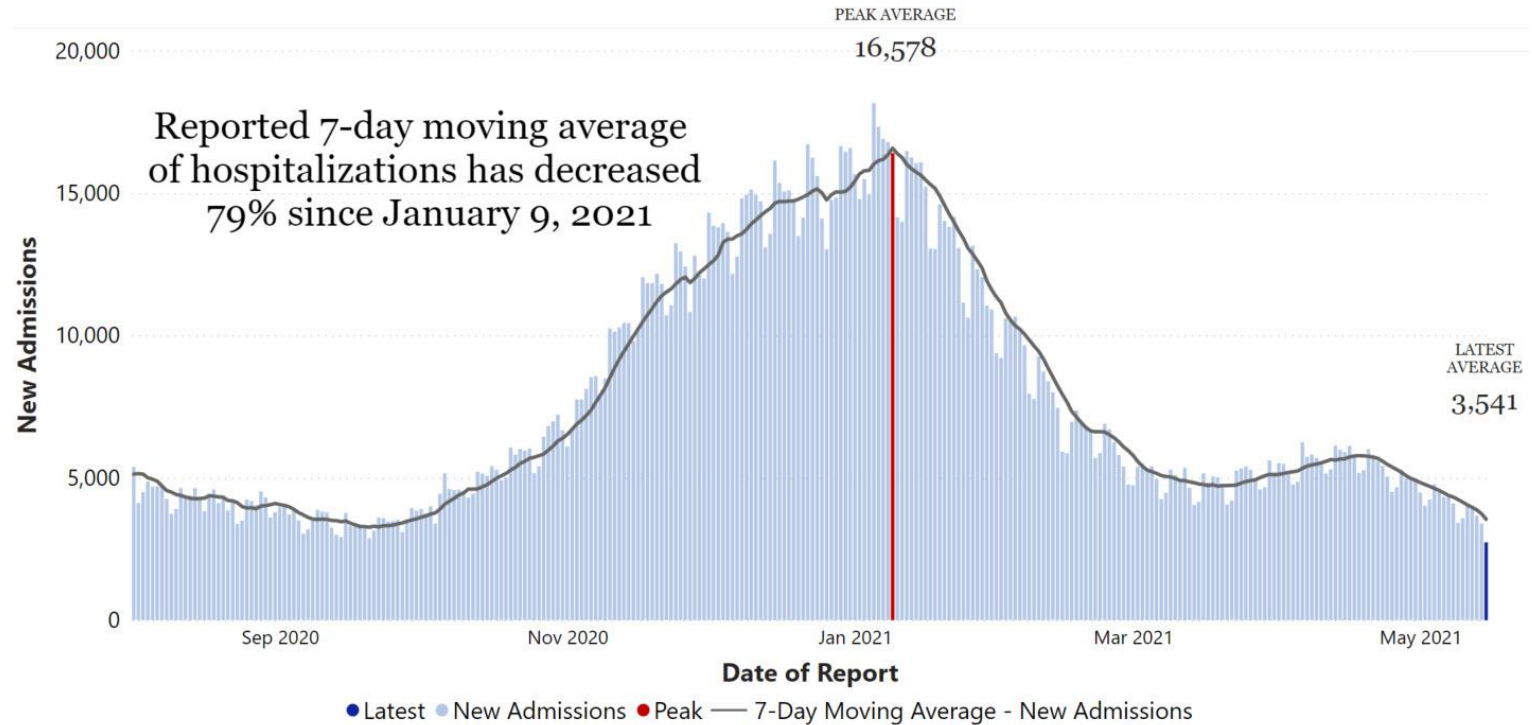
-18.1%

Current 7-Day Average of New Admissions (5/9/21 - 5/15/21)

3,541

Prior 7-Day Average of New Admissions (5/2/21 - 5/8/21)

4,324



Daily Change in COVID-19 Deaths, United States

January 22, 2020 – May 16, 2021

TOTAL Deaths Reported Since 1/22/2020

583,074

NEW Deaths Reported to CDC on 5/16/21

307

Change in 7-Day Death Average

-13.6%

Current 7-Day Death Average (5/10/21 - 5/16/21)

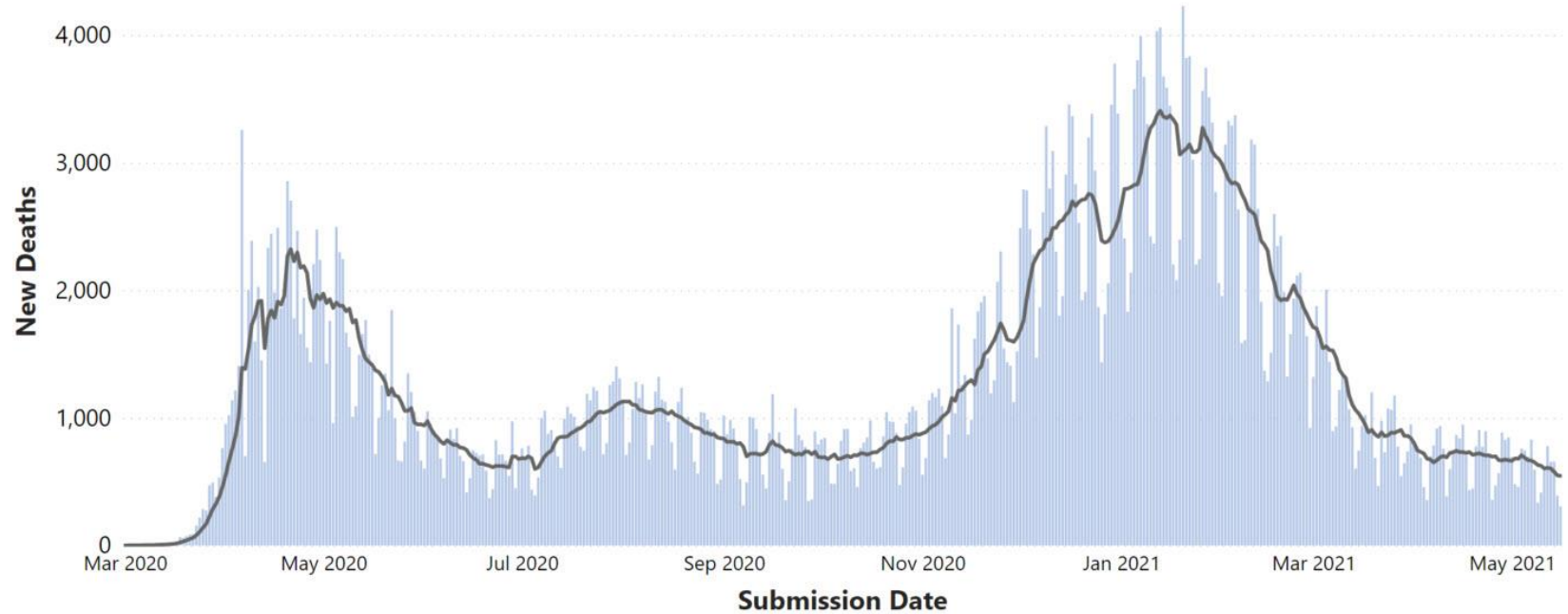
546

Prior 7-Day Death Average (5/3/21 - 5/9/21)

631

Forecasted Total Deaths by 6/05/21

591,000 to 602,000



● New Deaths — 7-Day Moving Average - New Deaths*

*7-day averages exclude historical cases reported retroactively by states



Licensed COVID-19 Vaccines and SARS-CoV-2 Variants





The
New England
Journal of Medicine

Established in 1812 as THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Published online May 12, 2021

BNT162b2-Elicited Neutralization against New SARS-CoV-2 Spike Variants

Y Liu, P-Y Shi et al.

- **The newly emerged B.1.526, B.1.429, and B.1.1.7+E484K variants remain susceptible to neutralizing antibodies**
- **The E484K mutation (also found in the B.1.351 and B.1.526 lineages) caused little compromise to neutralization**



May 16, 2021



Cold
Spring
Harbor
Laboratory

bioRxiv

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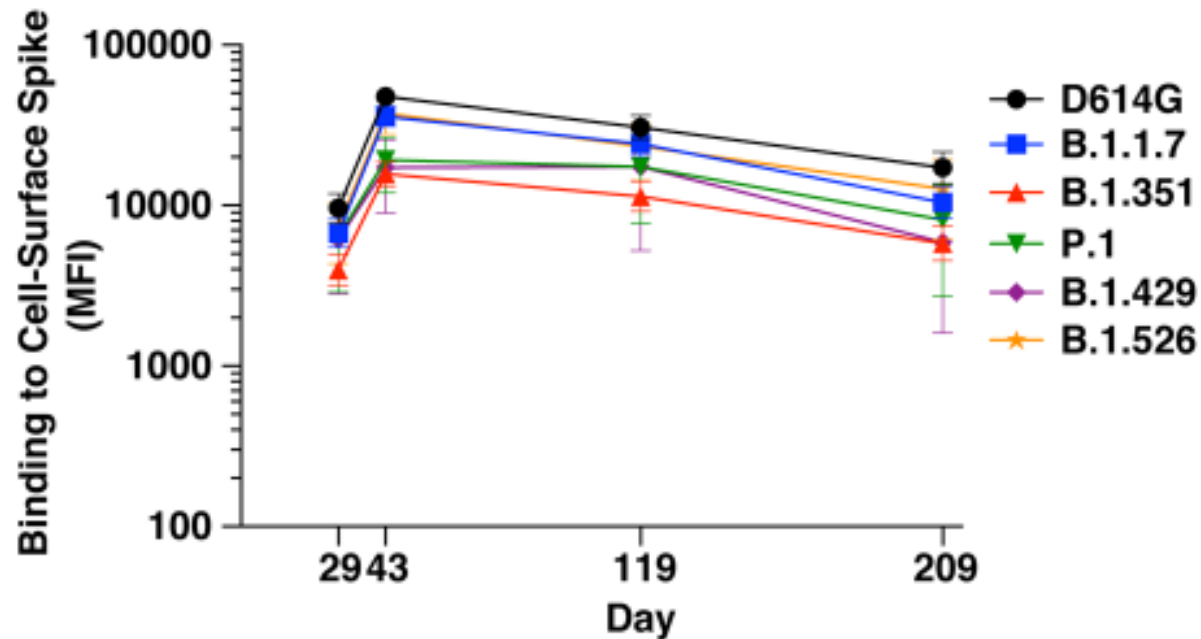
Durability of mRNA-1273-Induced Antibodies Against SARS-CoV-2 Variants

A Pegu, NA Doria-Rose et al.

- **Most individuals vaccinated with mRNA-1273 (Moderna vaccine), including older individuals, maintained binding and functional antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, B.1.429, and B.1.526 antibodies for >6 months.**
- **“While the correlates of vaccine-induced protection are not yet known, our data are encouraging for the use of this vaccine in the face of viral variation.”**



Binding Antibodies Persist for 6 months Following the Second Dose of mRNA-1273 (Moderna Vaccine)



Binding to cell-surface expressed full length spike, measured by flow cytometry and expressed as median fluorescence intensity (MFI)


Source: A Pegu et al. *bioRxiv*, 5/16/2021.



Update on the B.1.617 Variant


■ The modest neutralization resistance of B.1.617.1 variant to vaccine-elicited antibodies suggests that current vaccines will be protective

■ Selected references:

 **bioRxiv** May 8, 2021
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SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617 Emergence and Sensitivity to Vaccine-Elicited Antibodies

I Ferreira, RK Gupta et al.

 **bioRxiv** May 9, 2021
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Infection and Vaccine-Induced Neutralizing Antibody Responses to the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.1 Variant

V Edara, MS Suthar et al.

 **bioRxiv** May 12, 2021
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Neutralization Potential of Covishield Vaccinated Individuals Against B.1.617.1

PD Yadav, B Bhargava et al.

 **bioRxiv** May 14, 2021
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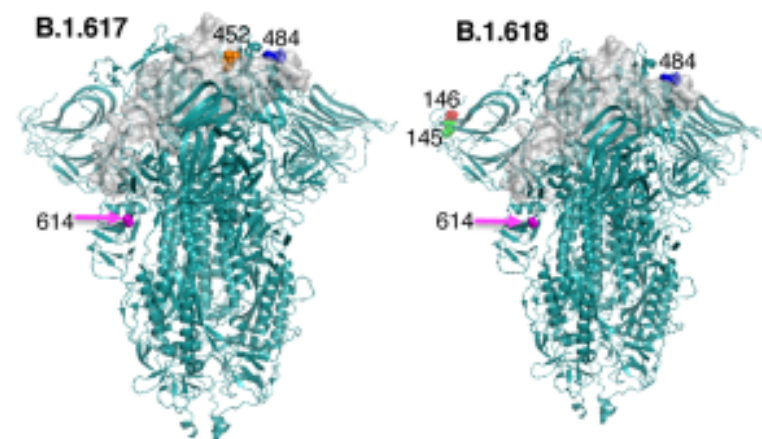
The Spike Proteins of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617 and B.1.618 Variants Identified in India Provide Partial Resistance to Vaccine-Elicited and Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies

T Tada, NR Landau et al.

The Spike Proteins of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617 and B.1.618 Variants Identified in India Provide Partial Resistance to Vaccine-elicited and Therapeutic Monoclonal Antibodies

T Tada, NR Landau et al.

- Viruses with B.1.617 and B.1.618 spike were neutralized with a 2.5-fold decrease in titer by convalescent sera and antibodies elicited by SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines
- Modest neutralization resistance suggests that current vaccines will remain protective against the B.1.617 and B.1.618 variants



Key mutations in B.1.617 and B.1.618 spikes



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