



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COVID-19 Press Briefing

December 15, 2021



Daily Change in COVID-19 Cases, US

January 22, 2020 – December 13, 2021

TOTAL Cases Reported Since 1/22/20

50,052,008

NEW Cases Reported to CDC on 12/13/21

201,786

Change in 7-Day Case Average

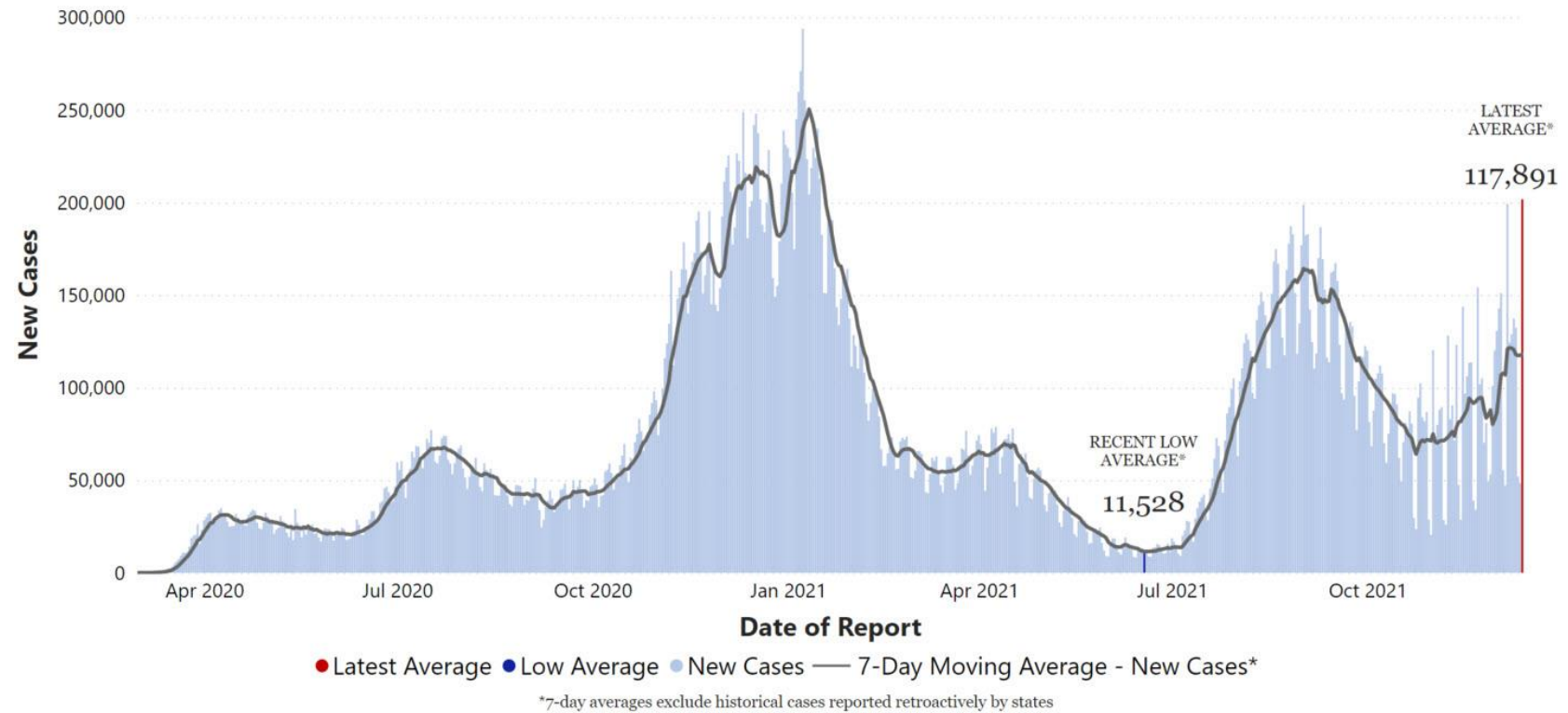
-2.5%

Current 7-Day Case Average (12/7/21 - 12/13/21)

117,891

Prior 7-Day Case Average (11/30/21 - 12/6/21)

120,965



New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19, US

August 1, 2020 – December 12, 2021

Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID on 12/12/21

57,191

New Admissions on 12/12/21

6,962

Peak in New Admissions (1/5/21)

17,965

Change in 7-Day Average of New Admissions

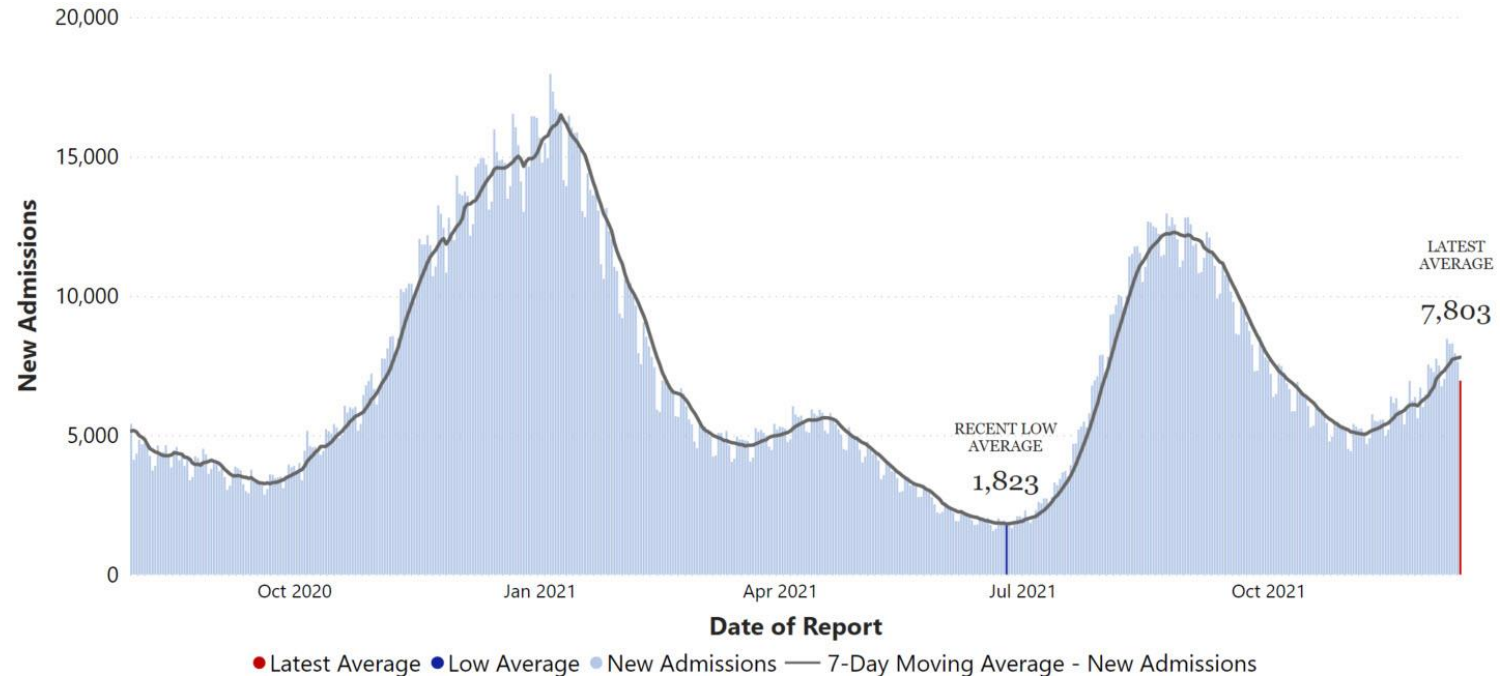
+7.7%

Current 7-Day Average of New Admissions (12/6/21 - 12/12/21)

7,803

Prior 7-Day Average of New Admissions (11/29/21 - 12/5/21)

7,246



Daily Change in COVID-19 Deaths, US

January 22, 2020 – December 13, 2021

TOTAL Deaths Reported Since 1/22/2020

796,010

NEW Deaths Reported to CDC on 12/13/21

1,350

Change in 7-Day Death Average

+4.8%

Current 7-Day Death Average (12/7/21 - 12/13/21)

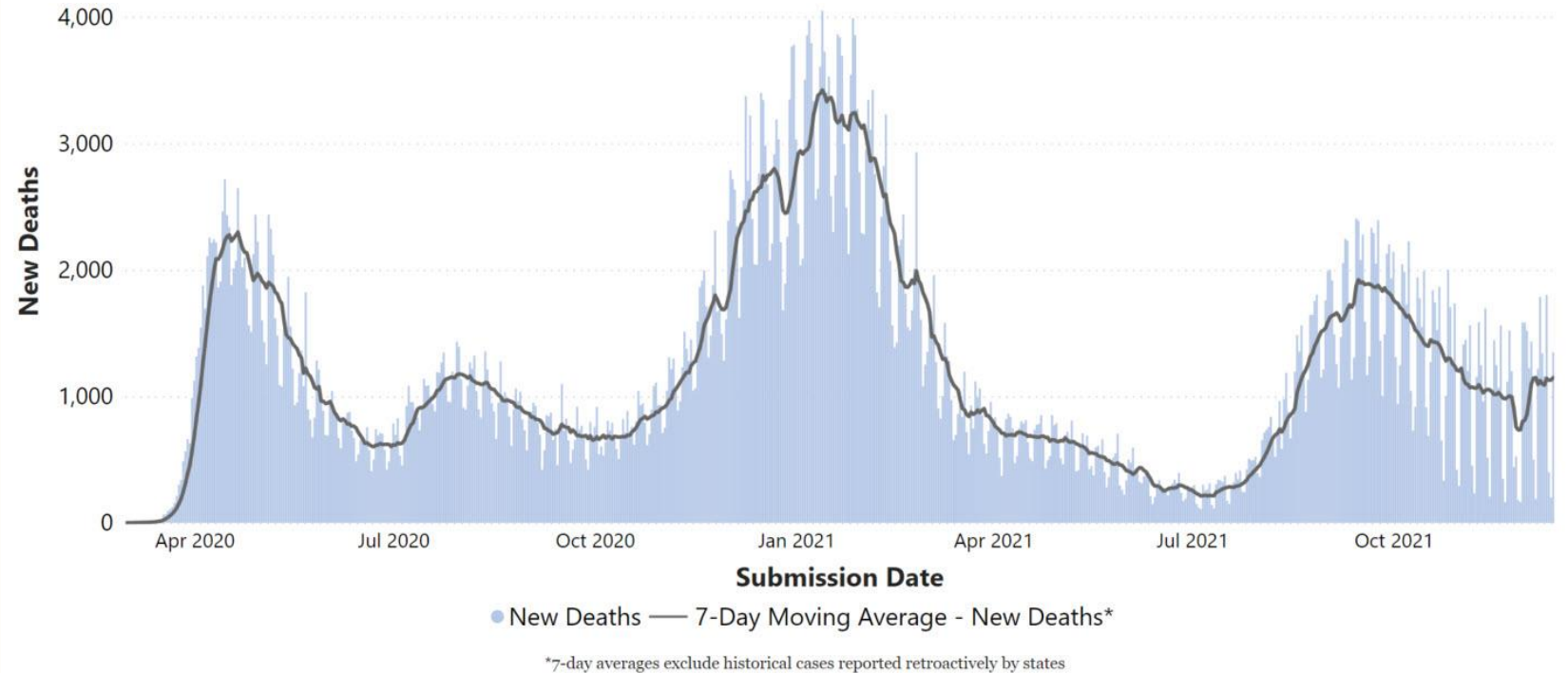
1,148

Prior 7-Day Death Average (11/30/21 - 12/6/21)

1,096

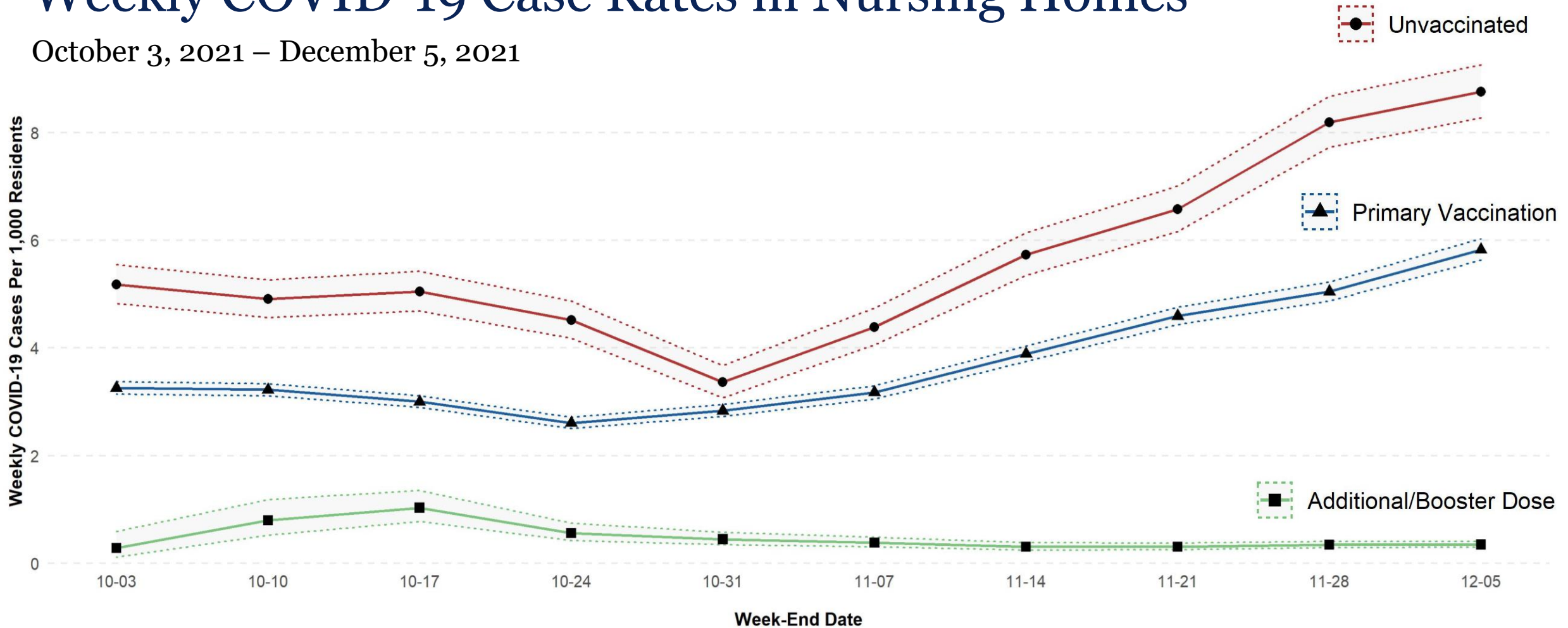
Forecasted Total Deaths by 01/01/22

821,000 to 837,000



Weekly COVID-19 Case Rates in Nursing Homes

October 3, 2021 – December 5, 2021



Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Healthcare Safety Network
For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/weekly-covid-vac/index.html>



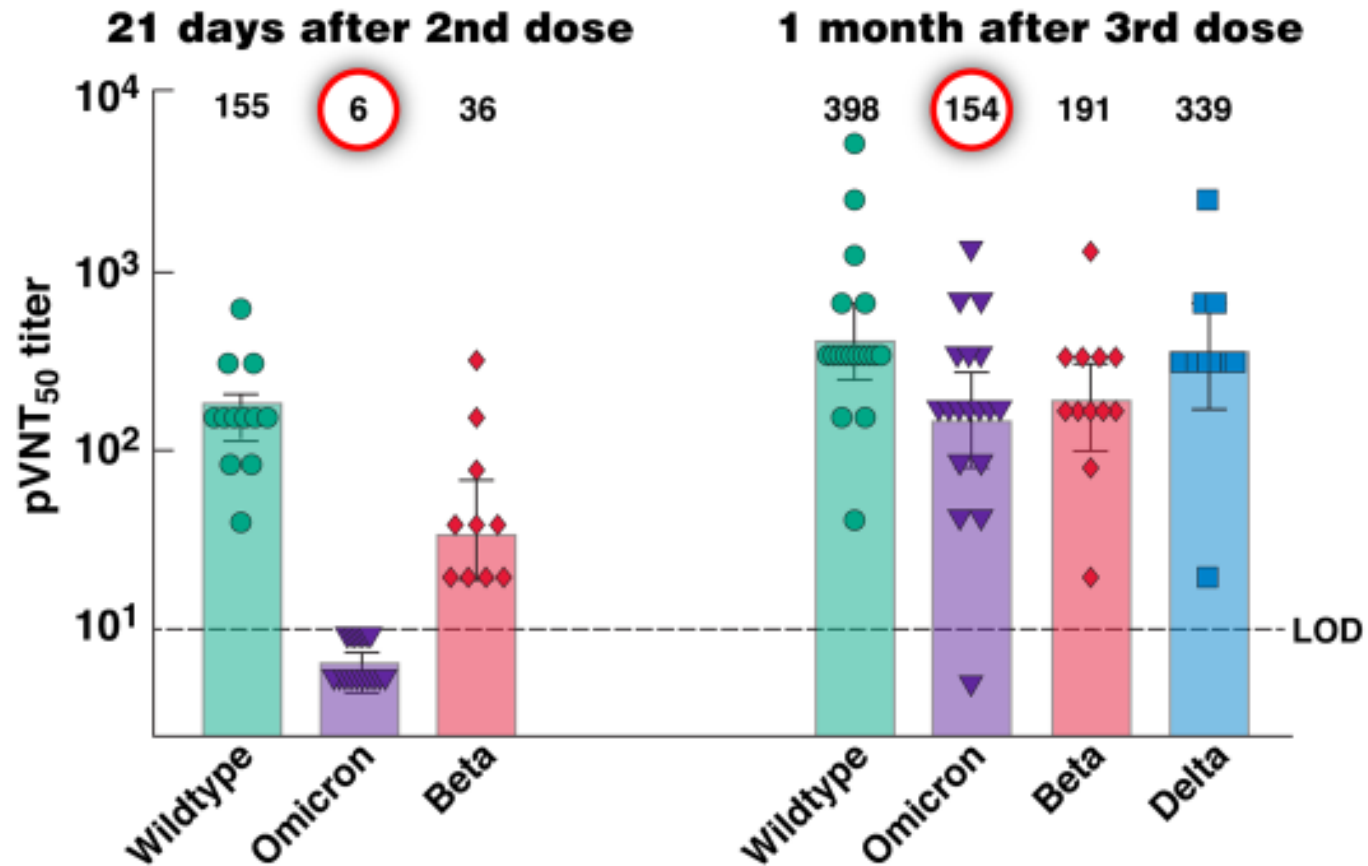
Omicron: Neutralization Studies and Clinical Impact of Vaccine Boosters



Selected *in vitro* Neutralization Studies



Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: Booster Dose Increased Antibody Titters Against Omicron 25-Fold



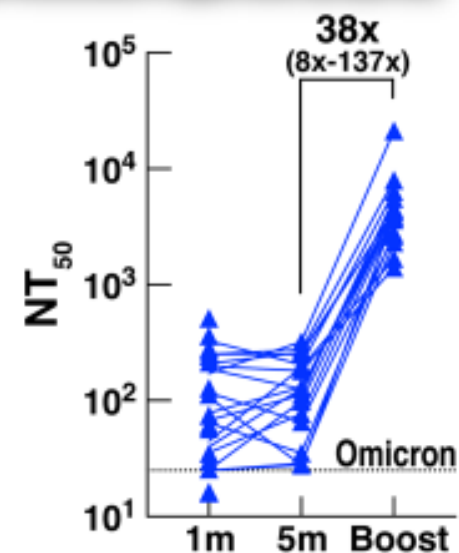
Source: Pfizer press conference, 12/8/21



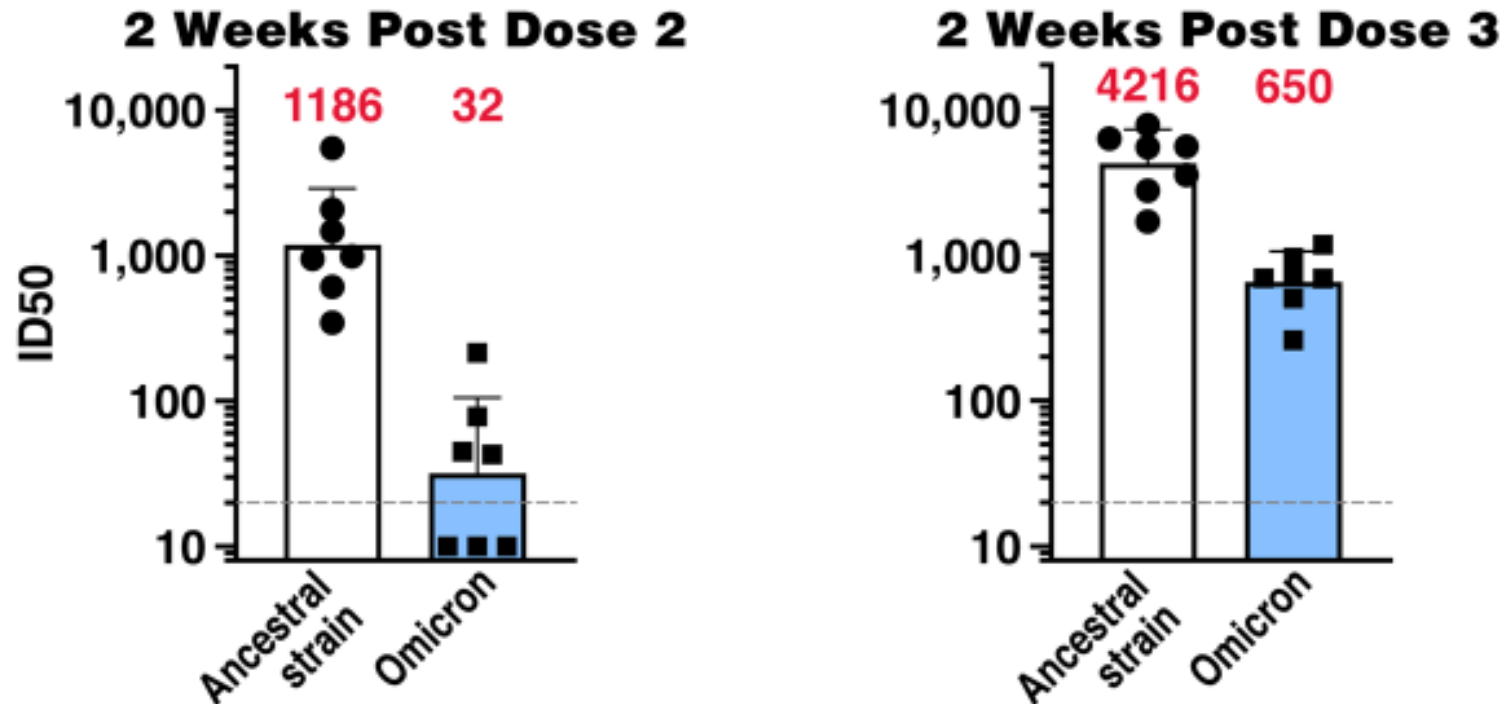
Plasma Neutralization Properties of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant

F Schmidt, P Bieniasz et al.

- Omicron exhibits an unprecedented degree of neutralizing antibody escape
- 2-dose mRNA vaccinated individuals who received booster had substantial increase in neutralizing activity against omicron



NIAID VRC Study: 3rd Dose of Moderna Vaccine Improves Antibody Response to Omicron



■ VRC pseudovirus neutralization assay; samples from VRC 200

Source: N Doria-Rose & S Schmidt, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID, NIH

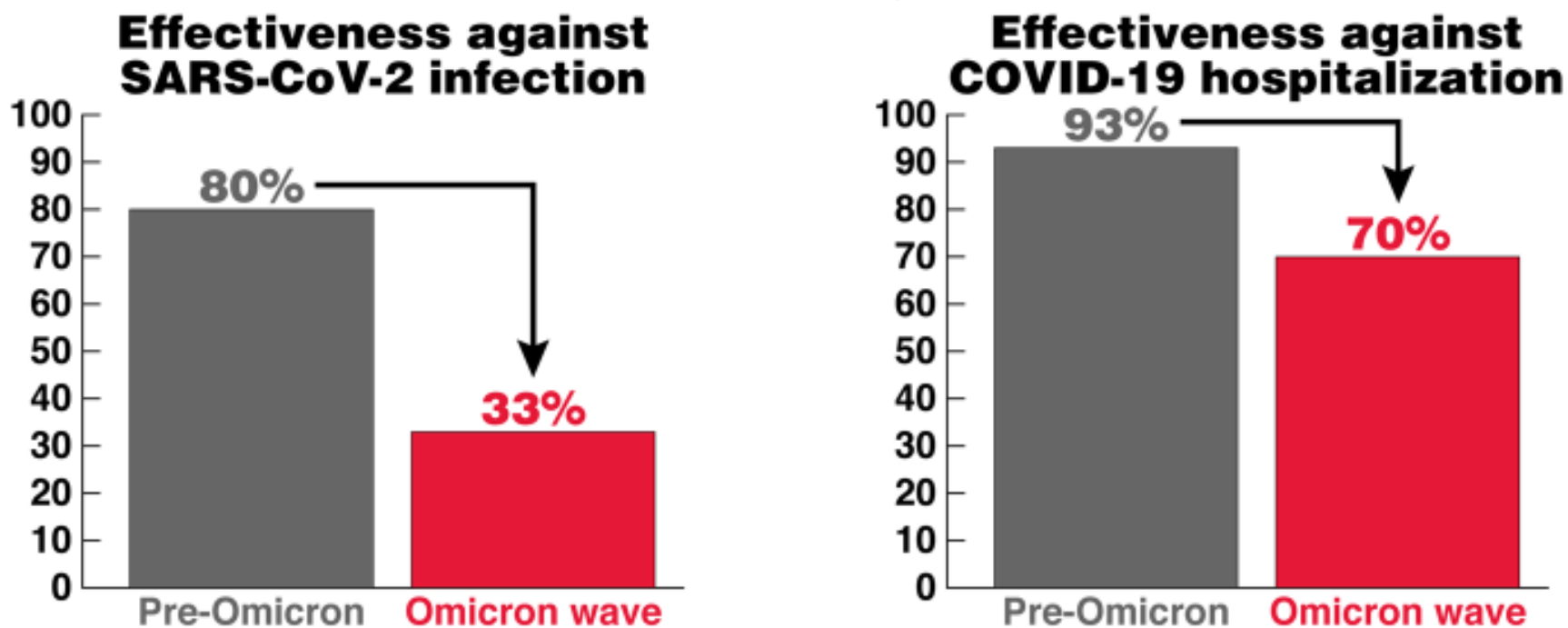


Selected Clinical Studies



Effectiveness of Two-Dose Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Against Omicron Variant, South Africa

Total n: 211,000



Source: Discovery Health. <https://www.discovery.co.za/corporate/news-room>, 12/14/2021.





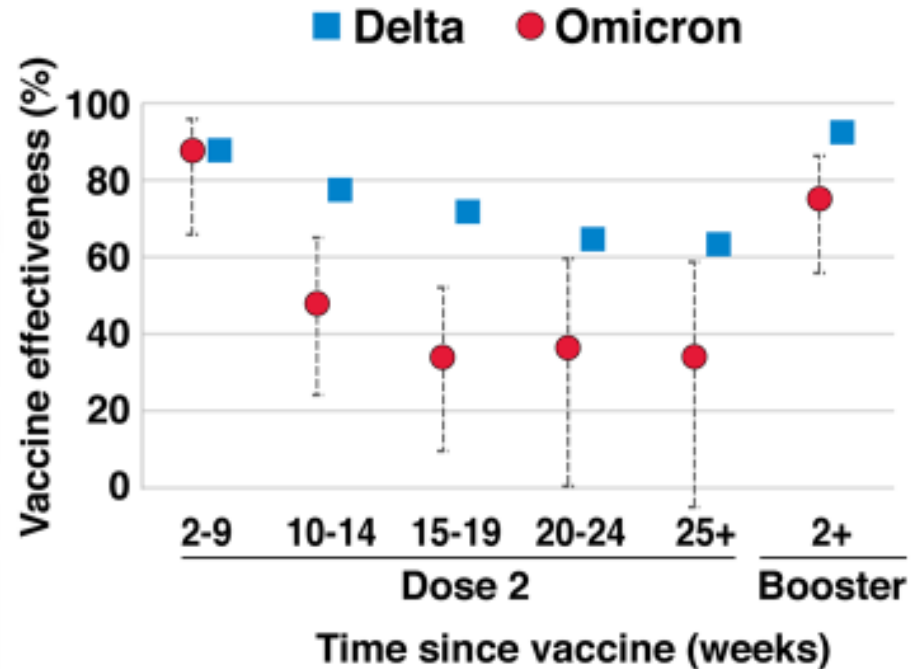
UK Health
Security
Agency

Preprint
December 10, 2021

Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines Against the Omicron (B.1.1.529) Variant of Concern

N Andrews, JL Bernal et al.

Two doses of BNT162b2 with a BNT162b2 booster dose



- Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease with Omicron variant is significantly lower than with the Delta variant, but increases to 75% after a booster dose

Vaccines Against Omicron: The Bottom Line

- The Omicron variant compromises the effects of 2-dose mRNA vaccine-induced antibodies and reduces overall vaccine protection, but considerable protection against severe disease is maintained
- Early *in vitro* and clinical studies indicate that boosters reconstitute antibody titers and enhance vaccine protection against Omicron
- Our boosted vaccine regimens work against Omicron – no need for a variant-specific booster at this time



Impact of U.S. Vaccination Program on Hospitalizations and Deaths

10.3M

Hospitalizations Prevented



1.1M

American Lives Saved





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