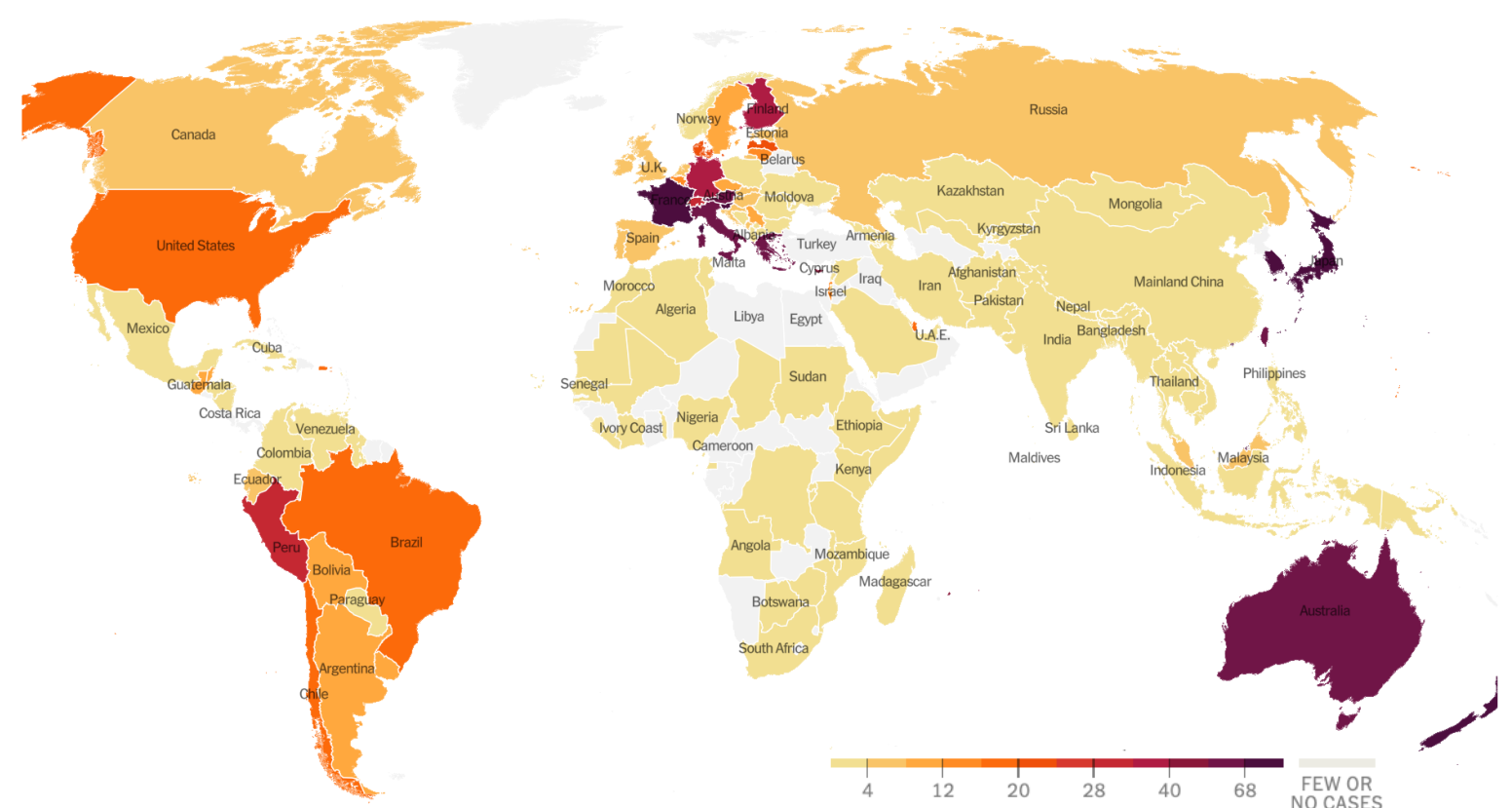


COVID-19: GLOBAL STATUS

COSGP Global Health Committee
December 2022

AVERAGE DAILY CASES PER 100,000

Calculated over 7 days from December 8th to December 13th, 2022



IN THE PAST
28 DAYS

CASES	14,044,516
DEATHS	41,970
VACCINES	164,503,232

VACCINATIONS

Currently, four vaccines are approved in the United States: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson and Johnson (CDC recommends the latter to be used under certain situations due to safety concerns)

For those who have their initial doses completed, the CDC recommends staying up to date with the **Bivalent Booster**.

- The bivalent booster gives protection to both the original strain and the Omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5

The CDC also recommends that people who tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to receive their booster until 3 months after their first symptom. However, there is no harm in getting the vaccine shortly after recovering from COVID-19.

Importantly, you are allowed to mix boosters from different vaccines. For example, you may receive the initial two doses from Moderna, but switch to Pfizer-BioNTech for your booster. This may be helpful for those who have trouble finding vaccine availability or if you had a reaction from the initial two doses.

CURRENT VARIANTS OF CONCERN:

Omicron BQ.1 & BQ.1.1

Omicron was first identified in South Africa in November 2021 and has since spread across the globe, developing multiple variants. Over the last few months, Omicron BA.2 & BA.5 were the dominant strains in the UK, USA, and Australia, however descendant lineages have recently begun to spike.

Asia, Europe, USA, & Australia have cited an increase in Omicron BQ.1 & BQ.1.1 and, as of December 2022, these variants now constitute a majority of COVID-19 cases for many countries. Omicron XBB may also be on the rise in Asia & Australia.

Omicron BQ.1 & BQ.1.1 symptoms are similar to previous COVID-19 variants, with the most common signs being fatigue, congestion, cough, sore throat, and headache.

Preliminary data shows that vaccinations are still effective against these variants, reducing severe illness and hospitalizations. However, BQ.1 & BQ.1.1 may be more immune-evasive than BQ.5. As such, it is vital that everyone remains up to date on boosters, wears masks as necessary, and tests themselves when they feel sick.

References

Allen J, Almukhtar S, Aurfrichtig A, et al. Coronavirus World Map: Tracking the Global Outbreak. New York Times. Updated December 13, 2022. Accessed December 14, 2022.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Stay up to Date with Vaccines." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. December 9, 2022. Accessed December 16, 2022.

Easton V. What you need to know about these two omicron “cousins.” World Economic Forum. November 24, 2022. Accessed December 14, 2022.

Katella K. Omicron and the BQs: A Guide to What We Know. Yale Medicine. December 9, 2022. Accessed December 14, 2022.

Moderna, Inc. Moderna’s BA.4/BA.5 targeting bivalent booster, mRNA-1273.222, meets primary endpoint of superiority against omicron variants compared to booster dose of mRNA-1273 in phase 2/3 clinical trial. November 14, 2022. Accessed December 14, 2022.