OMICRON VARIANT: HOW TO STAY SAFE

Omicron in the United States:

CDC is working with state and local public health officials to monitor the spread of Omicron. As of December 20, 2021, Omicron has been detected in most states and territories and is rapidly increasing the proportion of COVID-19 cases it is causing.

The spread of Omicron:

The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don’t have symptoms.

Severe illness with Omicron:

More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated, cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variant

Vaccines:

Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

What to do if you become ill:

All West Lafayette faculty, staff and students — as well as spouses and dependents of faculty and staff directly affiliated with the West Lafayette campus — can be tested for COVID-19 on campus at no cost, regardless of whether or not they are exhibiting symptoms. To schedule a general testing appointment, please contact Protect Purdue Health Center (PPHC) 24/7 at 765-496-4636 or toll-free at 1-833-571-1043 or email pphctesting@121.health to schedule an appointment. Call the Protect Purdue Health Center (PPHC) at 765-496-4636. PPHC is available by phone 24/7.