

UNMASK THE FACTS

March 28 - April 10

March 30, 2022

CDC drops its COVID-19 risk advisory for cruise ship travel

After two years, the CDC has lifted its risk advisory for cruise ship travel and no longer recommends against people travelling on cruise ships. The update still recommends that travelers get a COVID-19 viral test before traveling (no more than 3 days) and 3-5 days after the cruise, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. The CDC urges cruise-goers to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines and consider their personal health risks before boarding.

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April 8, 2022

New COVID-19 cases increase in U.S. as the BA.2 subvariant spreads

The CDC estimates that the BA.2 sub-variant of Omicron accounts for more than four-fifths of coronavirus variants in the country. According to [data](#) from the CDC, the seven-day moving average of U.S. COVID-19 cases (as of April 6) was 26,596, showing a nearly 5% increase in cases compared to the previous week. Estimates suggest the highly transmissible BA.2 sub-variant makes up 85.9% of COVID-19 variants in the U.S., up from 65.8% in March.

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April 7, 2022

Appeals court okays the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for federal employees

A federal appeals court upheld President Biden's requirement that all federal employees be vaccinated against COVID-19, with exceptions for medical and religious reasons. Last week, a panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision and ordered the dismissal of a lawsuit challenging the mandate. The Biden administration is currently waiting on the court's recommended steps for enforcing the mandate before it takes action.

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April 1, 2022

Boosting the J&J vaccine with an mRNA booster shot helps protect against Omicron

A new study about vaccine effectiveness (VE) of different booster strategies following the Janssen (J&J) vaccination, shows that the VE is higher when the vaccines are combined. A Janssen shot with an mRNA booster shot showed similar protection against emergency department/urgent care visits due to COVID-19 (79%) as 3 shots of mRNA vaccines (83%). Three mRNA shots though provided more protection against overall hospitalization (90%) than a Janssen shot with an mRNA booster (78%).

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April 5, 2022

Senate delays vote on COVID-19 relief funds

A bipartisan group of senators unveiled a \$10 billion COVID-19 supplemental funding proposal on April 4. The proposed package will allow the purchase of more vaccines and therapeutics, such as oral antivirals, as well as maintain testing capacity and research. This package does not include aid for vaccines abroad and fails to replenish the program that pays for testing, treating, and [vaccinating the uninsured](#). The Senate is expected to consider this proposal again when it returns on April 25.

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Americares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine, medical supplies and emergency aid.

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