

# UNMASK THE FACTS

April 25 – May 8

April 28, 2022

## Moderna requests authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine for use in children under 6 years old

Moderna has submitted a request for emergency use authorization (EUA) of its COVID-19 vaccine in two new groups: 1) toddlers 6 months old to under 2 years old and 2) children 2 years old to under 6 years old. Positive interim results from their studies showed a robust neutralizing antibody response in both age groups after a two-dose primary series, along with a favorable safety profile. The FDA is still reviewing this data, and it hopes to reach a decision in June.

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May 2, 2022

## New Omicron subvariants keep authorities on alert as COVID-19 cases surge in parts of the U.S.

New Omicron subvariants are creating concern in the U.S. The members of the Omicron family are the BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5. Within the BA.2 family, many different variants have been identified, including some that fuel more infections than others. For example, the BA.2.12.1 variant is raising COVID-19 Community Levels to [medium or high status](#) in the Northeast U.S. [The BA.4 and BA.5](#) subvariants are gaining attention from the World Health Organization.

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May 5, 2022

## The FDA further limits the use of the Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine

The J&J COVID-19 vaccine is now only available to individuals 18 years of age and older who cannot receive an mRNA vaccine because mRNA vaccines are not accessible or clinically appropriate. Those with personal concerns about the mRNA vaccines can also still choose to get the J&J vaccine instead. The FDA has made this decision based on the risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), which they outline in their updated [fact sheet](#).

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May 4, 2022

## Over 1 million people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S.

The U.S. has experienced a devastating 1 million COVID-19 deaths since the start of the pandemic. For comparison, this massive loss of life is nearly equal to the population of San Jose, California, the 10th largest city in the country. Recently, the [CDC announced](#) that, for the second year, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer. The agency said that this highlights the need for greater effort to implement effective interventions.

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April 26, 2022

## Nearly 75% of children and adolescents have been infected with COVID-19

As of February 2022, about 75% of children in the U.S. had antibodies showing that they were previously infected with COVID-19, with 33% of new infections occurring since December 2021. Most COVID-19 infections analyzed in this study between September 2021 and February 2022 were in age groups with the lowest vaccination coverage. These findings illustrate a high infection rate for the Omicron variant, especially among children, and the benefits of vaccination.

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