

# UNMASK THE FACTS

July 4 - 19

July 6, 2022

## Pharmacists can now prescribe Paxlovid

The FDA has revised the previous emergency use authorization (EUA) for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) so that state-licensed pharmacists can now prescribe the drug to eligible patients. Patients seeking to determine their eligibility must bring their health records from the past year, their most recent bloodwork, and a list of all their medications to their pharmacist. Paxlovid must be taken within five days after symptoms begin.

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July 19, 2022

## FDA and CDC okay Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine for adults 18 and older

The U.S. FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine to help prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19 in adults 18 years old and older. Overall, the vaccine was 90.4% effective in preventing mild, moderate, or severe COVID-19. The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is administered as a two-dose primary series, three weeks apart. The [CDC](#) now recommends the vaccine for all adults 18 and older who have yet to get their first dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.

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July 13, 2022

## New COVID-19 subvariant spreads to at least 10 countries

Another fast-spreading Omicron variant, which is rapidly gaining ground in India and has already arrived in 10 countries, is concerning some scientists. The BA.2.75 variant – unofficially nicknamed “Centaurus” – was first detected in India in early May. This subvariant is rapidly displacing the previously dominant BA.2 variant in many countries and the extremely transmissible BA.5 variant. The WHO currently considers BA.2.75 as an “Omicron subvariant under monitoring.”

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July 7, 2022

## BA.5 variant becomes dominant in the U.S.

The Omicron offshoot BA.5 recently became the dominant variant in the U.S., according to data from the CDC. This subvariant carries key mutations that help it escape antibodies generated by the vaccines and prior infection, which helps it spread much more quickly. Current COVID-19 cases in the U.S. are being undercounted due to asymptomatic cases and positive home tests that are not reported to local health authorities; however, we are likely in [another wave](#) of summer COVID.

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July 12, 2022

## Biden administration outlines strategy to manage BA.5

President Biden's coronavirus response team warned Americans that they must do more to protect themselves against COVID-19 as BA.5 fuels a new wave of infections, re-infections, and hospitalizations across the country. The proposed strategy includes making it easier for people to get vaccines, boosters, and COVID-19 treatments as well as raising provider and patient awareness about these options. Making free at-home test and high-quality masks more accessible is also part of these initiatives.

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Disclaimer: This project was funded in whole by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant number 6 NU50CK000588-02-02. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource center do not necessarily represent the policy of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.