

UNMASK THE FACTS

November 2022

November 11, 2022

Federal COVID-19 public health emergency is still in place

The government has been paying for COVID-19 vaccines, some tests, and certain treatments under this public health emergency. For now, all people in the U.S., including the uninsured, can find low or no-cost COVID-19 tests at health centers and select pharmacies. COVID-19 vaccines are still 100% free for every person living in the United States—even if they do not have insurance. If you or your patients get charged for a COVID-19 vaccine, you can report the matter by following [these steps](#).

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November 22, 2022

Cases of RSV, COVID-19, and the flu are on the rise

Some medical experts are worrying about a “triple-demic” this winter. They fear that RSV (a common respiratory virus), the flu, and COVID-19 will all peak at the same time. So many sick patients at once could cripple our struggling healthcare system. Hospitals are already running out of beds, causing many people to travel long distances for treatments. Protect yourself and your family by avoiding others who are sick, getting your flu shot, and staying up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines.

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November 22, 2022

Bivalent booster shots increase protection from COVID-19

A new study provides the first glimpse at how these new boosters work in the real world outside of clinical trials. The results? Bivalent boosters do improve our defenses against COVID-19. Those who got the updated booster shot gained between 30% to 56% protection against COVID-19. These boosters should be thought of as a layer of defense. This defense can be made stronger by mixing it with other measures like wearing masks, staying home when you feel sick, and washing your hands.

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November 28, 2022

New COVID-19 variants take over the U.S.

The BQ versions of Omicron are becoming more common in the U.S. than the BA.5 versions. BQ.1 and its offshoot BQ.1.1 can better avoid our immune systems. The CDC estimates that these two strains make up about 60% of cases in the U.S. today. But so far, their rise hasn't had much impact. Cases have risen a little in the past two weeks while hospitalizations and deaths have stayed stable. On average, more than 350 Americans die and 3,500 are hospitalized each day with COVID-19.

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November 22, 2022

White House launches new ways to get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster before the holidays

The bivalent booster vaccines were approved for emergency use in early September, but uptake has been slow. So far, just over 12% of eligible people ages 5 and older have received the new booster, according to the CDC. The White House has launched a new six-week campaign that will focus on reaching older adults and the people who've been hardest hit by COVID-19. The campaign aims to make it easier for them to get a vaccine through pop-up clinics and funding for local vaccine sites and home visits.

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