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Public Health Alert from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

DECEMBER 28TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Public Health Alert from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT: the Omicron variant is rising quickly throughout Missouri. More than half of community sewershed samples tested from the week of Dec. 20 showed presence of the Omicron variant.

To view the 32 locations where the variant was detected and find our interactive map, click here:
<https://health.mo.gov/.../presence-of-omicron-variant...>

What we know:

- The Omicron variant has mutated several times in ways that cause concern for public health experts
- Omicron has spread to several countries

What we don't know (more data is being collected):

- Transmissibility caused by Omicron
- Disease severity caused by Omicron
- Degree to which vaccines and therapies protect against Omicron

What you can do to protect yourself and those around you:

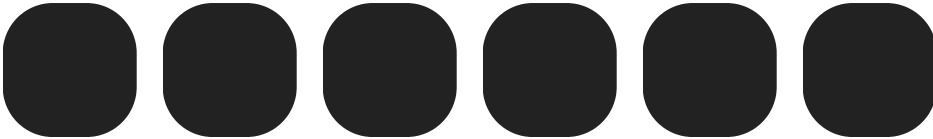
- Wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission
- Frequent handwashing
- Maintain physical distance from others
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms
- Choose vaccination and get your booster dose

Find your vaccine at [MOPlastsCovid.com](https://moplastscovid.com). Find testing resources at [Health.Mo.Gov/communitytest](https://health.mo.gov/communitytest).

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