

PFT COVID Update 11-16-22: Moderna New Booster - Immunity Gap & RSV - Statistics - Links

CORONA VIRUS

Updates

Moderna's Bivalent Booster Shows Effective Promise Against Covid Variants.

Like the specialized Pfizer booster vaccine before it, Moderna's new booster has demonstrated significant effectiveness against the B.A. family of variants within the Omicron variant—still the most prevalent types of COVID-19 in the U.S.

[According to a recent CNBC article](#), Moderna's updated Covid-19 booster generated "significantly higher" neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron BA.4/BA.5 subvariants than its earlier vaccine booster. More available (and more effective) boosters have the potential of easing a possible winter Covid surge by effectively neutralizing or minimizing the effects of the most common variants.

And when you consider the fall and winter seasonal challenges of annual influenza (the flu) coupled with a disturbing trend upward in cases of RSV (*see below*) in young people and older adults — any proven weapons we have against Covid-19 resurgence can only help to improve

the short and long-term health outlook for the upcoming winter when more and more people spend significant time indoors.

[Click here for a vaccine booster update from the CDC.](#)

“Immunity Gap” Likely Culprit For Rise in RSV and Flu Cases.

The COVID-19 mitigation efforts taken by a broad swath of Americans these last two years may now be inadvertently contributing to a sudden, sharp rise in cases of the flu as well as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) -- a common infection of the lungs and respiratory tract. It's so common that most children have been infected with it by age 2.

The measures that helped keep us safe from Covid-19 over the past 2½ years – lockdowns, physical distancing, wearing masks, washing hands – also helped limit the spread of other viruses. As people return to school and work and take off their masks, those viruses, including respiratory syncytial virus and flu, are back in full force.

That “immunity gap” from the last few years is probably behind the [“unprecedented”](#) early surge in [RSV](#) infections this year, scientists say – and it has thrown [other seasonal respiratory viruses](#) out of whack around [the world](#). -- CNN

[Click here to read CNN article.](#)

What that means to you is simply to maintain the level of hygiene and vigilance that the pandemic brought out in you, and be mindful of other viruses seeking to gain a foothold after being largely neutralized by COVID mitigation these last several years.

When in doubt, get to a doctor and get tested!

[Learn more about RSV here from the Mayo Clinic.](#)

Why Still Worry? The Numbers Say We Should.

While much of the nation has emerged from the alternate-reality of constant COVID mitigation, we cannot for a moment call the effects of this virus “over” or “fully behind us,” simply because the statistics will not allow us to.

[CDC Covid-19 Data Tracker.](#)

The wide availability of (*and participation in*) mass vaccinations (*and significant infection* throughout the population) have led to a “plateau” of sorts in weekly number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19.

But to the thousands of people per month who are still hospitalized, to the equal thousands suffering from debilitating “long Covid” symptoms, to the hundreds of families that are still seeing hospitalizations and fatalities every week?

This virus is going nowhere.

Stay vigilant and be mindful of the constituencies still highly susceptible to this virus. And if at all possible, please keep up with your vaccination booster schedule.

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

[CDC Monkeypox Information & Tracker \(NEW!\)](#)

[AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members](#)

[Find a Vaccine Provider Near You](#)

[AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

-- A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members

[Click for EAP Information Flyer](#) (*includes login info*)

[Click for Life Skills Solutions Website](#) (*login upper right*)

[AFT Share My Lesson Stress Management Resources](#) (*searchable*)

[National Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Coronavirus Resources](#)

[CDC Data Tracking Page](#)

[CDC Vaccine Information Landing Page](#)

[PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources](#)

[PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey](#)

[Student Debt Relief Resources](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Rumor Control
Coronavirus Testing Locations \(view interactive map mid page\)](#)



Coronavirus Self-Checker

A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

**** PFT Coronavirus Updates Released Periodically As Needed ****

Missed an update or message? [View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here](#).

Please keep in touch — keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity —

Dan Evans

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