



## COVID-19 Digest Issue 67

December 3, 2021

### CLINICAL PEARL

- **COVID-19 and elevated body mass index (BMI)**
  - **[According to a recent study](#), despite having similar viral loads, adolescent and adult COVID-19 outpatients who are overweight or obese are more likely to experience more respiratory symptoms than their normal body weight counterparts.**
  - The researchers enrolled 522 people, 63.8% of whom were considered overweight or obese, from June 2020 to January 2021 within 2 weeks of a known household exposure to COVID-19. During a 28-day follow-up in which participants reported their symptoms and sought regular testing, 85.1% ended up positive for COVID-19 (261 adults, 61 adolescents 12 to 17 years old, and 148 children).
  - In general, COVID-19 outpatients who were overweight or obese had more symptoms (median, 3 vs 2,  $P = 0.037$ ), particularly cough and shortness of breath. Overweight or obese **adolescents** were more likely to be symptomatic compared with adolescents with a normal BMI (66.7% vs 34.2%,  $P = 0.008$ ), and their respiratory symptoms lasted longer (median, 7 vs 4 days,  $P = 0.049$ ). **Children 12 years and younger**, on the other hand, showed no symptom association with BMI categorization and, compared with older participants, had fewer symptoms (median, 2 vs 3,  $P < 0.001$ ) and these symptoms lasted for fewer days (median, 5 vs 7 days,  $P < 0.001$ ).
  - These findings are in line with previous studies that showed an increased risk of severe outcomes in overweight or obese COVID-19 **hospitalized** patients, and once again highlight the need for vaccination against COVID-19 for those with an elevated BMI.

### PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- CDPH/SFDPH [Joint Statement from the California and San Francisco Departments of Public Health on the First Confirmed Case of the Omicron Variant](#)
  - CDPH [Fact Sheet: Omicron Variant](#)
- CDC
  - [First Confirmed Case of Omicron Variant Detected in the United States](#)
  - [Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States](#)
  - [CDC Expands COVID-19 Booster Recommendations](#)
- [FDA Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters](#)
- The White House: [A Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- WHO
  - [WHO advice for international traffic in relation to the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant \(B.1.1.529\)](#)
  - [Classification of Omicron \(B.1.1.529\): SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern](#)
  - [Interim statement on COVID-19 vaccination for children and adolescents](#)
  - [WHO and MPP announce the first transparent, global, non-exclusive licence for a COVID-19 technology](#)
- Network for Genomic Surveillance South Africa (NGS-SA): [SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Update](#)

### GUIDELINES/GUIDANCE

- CDC [Health Alert: New SARS-CoV-2 Variant of Concern Identified: Omicron \(B.1.1.529\) Variant](#)
- CDPH [Health Alert: SARS-CoV-2 virus variant of concern B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\)](#)





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- WHO [Clinical management of COVID-19 patients: living guideline](#)

### RESOURCES

- [European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiological update: Omicron variant of concern \(VOC\) – data as of 30 November 2021](#)
- Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call:
  - [Molecular Approaches for Clinical and Public Health Applications to Detect Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Viruses](#)
- CDC/IDSA COVID-19 Clinician Call:
  - [Updates in COVID-19 Treatment and Antibody-Based Prevention](#)
- IDSA Podcast:
  - [Recognizing Native American Heritage Month and the Impact of COVID-19 on Native Communities](#)
- Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) Osterholm Update:
  - [Episode 78: Breakthroughs and Boosters](#)
  - [Thanksgiving Mini Episode](#)
- University of Minnesota School of Public Health: [Inside the Pandemic: A candid conversation with Dr. Michael Osterholm and Andy Slavitt](#)

### ACADEMIC/RESEARCH PAPERS

- *New England Journal of Medicine*
  - [Severity of SARS-CoV-2 Reinfections as Compared with Primary Infections](#)
  - [Early Treatment for Covid-19 with SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody Sotrovimab](#)
- *The Lancet*
  - [Risk of COVID-19 hospital admission among children aged 5–17 years with asthma in Scotland: a national incident cohort study](#)
  - [Hybrid immunity versus vaccine-induced immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in patients with autoimmune rheumatic diseases](#)
- *JAMA*
  - [Myocardial Infarction, Stroke, and Pulmonary Embolism After BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine in People Aged 75 Years or Older](#)
  - [Factors Associated With Risk of Postdischarge Thrombosis in Patients With COVID-19](#)
  - [Odds of Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Following Receipt of 3 vs 2 Doses of the BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccine](#)
  - [Risks of SARS-CoV-2 Breakthrough Infection and Hospitalization in Fully Vaccinated Patients With Multiple Myeloma](#)
  - [Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in High-, Middle-, and Low-Income Countries Hosting Clinical Trials](#)
  - [Efficacy of Inhaled Ciclesonide for Outpatient Treatment of Adolescents and Adults With Symptomatic COVID-19 - A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
  - [Variation in COVID-19 Mortality in the US by Race and Ethnicity and Educational Attainment](#)
  - [Time-Dependent COVID-19 Mortality in Patients With Cancer - An Updated Analysis of the OnCovid Registry](#)
  - [Association of Discrimination and Health Care Experiences With Incomplete Infant Vaccination During COVID-19](#)
  - [Growing Public Health Concern of COVID-19 Chronic Olfactory Dysfunction](#)





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- [Analysis of COVID-19 Infection and Mortality Among Patients With Psychiatric Disorders, 2020](#)
- [Morally Injurious Experiences and Emotions of Health Care Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic Before Vaccine Availability](#)
- [Mental Health Outcomes Among Italian Health Care Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- *Science*
  - [Immune correlates analysis of the mRNA-1273 COVID-19 vaccine efficacy clinical trial](#)
  - [Lung epithelial and endothelial damage, loss of tissue repair, inhibition of fibrinolysis, and cellular senescence in fatal COVID-19](#)
- *Nature*
  - [Mental health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic as revealed by helpline calls](#)
- *Journal of Medical Economics*
  - [Evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections among immunocompromised patients fully vaccinated with BNT162b2](#)
- *PLOS*
  - [Prevalence and determinants of healthcare avoidance during the COVID-19 pandemic: A population-based cross-sectional study](#)
- *Frontiers*
  - [COVID-19 Post-acute Sequelae Among Adults: 12 Month Mortality Risk](#)
  - [Impaired Functional T-Cell Response to SARS-CoV-2 After Two Doses of BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccine in Older People](#)
- *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*
  - [Real-life effectiveness and safety of baricitinib as adjunctive to standard-of-care treatment in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19](#)
- *American Journal of Infection Control*
  - [COVID-19 vaccination coverage among hospital-based healthcare personnel reported through the Department of Health and Human Services Unified Hospital Data Surveillance System, United States, January 20, 2021-September 15, 2021](#)
- *Emerging Infectious Diseases*
  - [Postvaccination Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adult with No Evidence of Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)
  - [Systematic Genomic and Clinical Analysis of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Reinfections and Recurrences Involving the Same Strain](#)
  - [Limited and Short-Lasting Virus Neutralizing Titers Induced by Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine](#)
  - [Guillain-Barré Syndrome Associated with COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
  - [Multistate Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Including Vaccine Breakthrough Infections, Associated with Large Public Gatherings, United States](#)
  - [Coronavirus Disease Contact Tracing Outcomes and Cost, Salt Lake County, Utah, USA, March–May 2020](#)
  - [Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater at Residential College, Maine, USA, August–November 2020](#)
  - [Real-Time Projections of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Variant in a University Setting, Texas, USA](#)
  - [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Variant Infection in Malayan Tigers, Virginia, USA](#)
  - [SARS-CoV-2–Specific Antibodies in Domestic Cats during First COVID-19 Wave, Europe](#)
  - [Postmortem Stability of SARS-CoV-2 in Mouse Lung Tissue](#)
  - [SARS-CoV-2 Sequence Analysis during COVID-19 Case Surge, Liberia, 2021](#)
  - [Large-Scale Screening of Asymptomatic Persons for SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Gamma Takeover, Brazil](#)





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- [SARS-CoV-2 Variants, South Sudan, January–March 2021](#)
- [Incidence Trends for SARS-CoV-2 Alpha and Beta Variants, Finland, Spring 2021](#)
- [Breakthrough Infections of E484K-Harboring SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant, Lombardy, Italy](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence in a Rural and Urban Household Cohort during First and Second Waves of Infections, South Africa, July 2020–March 2021](#)
- [Transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 in Households with Children, Southwest Germany, May–August 2020](#)
- [Modern Epidemics: From the Spanish Flu to COVID-19](#)
- *JACC: Heart Failure*
  - [Use of Cardiopulmonary Stress Testing for Patients With Unexplained Dyspnea Post–Coronavirus Disease](#)
- *Journal of Endocrinological Investigation*
  - [Low testosterone predicts hypoxemic respiratory insufficiency and mortality in patients with COVID-19 disease: another piece in the COVID puzzle](#)
- *Eurosurveillance*
  - [Estimated number of deaths directly averted in people 60 years and older as a result of COVID-19 vaccination in the WHO European Region, December 2020 to November 2021](#)
  - [Estimating averted COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations, intensive care unit admissions and deaths by COVID-19 vaccination, Italy, January–September 2021](#)

## MMWR

- [Impact of Hospital Strain on Excess Deaths During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, July 2020–July 2021](#)
- [Risk for Stillbirth Among Women With and Without COVID-19 at Delivery Hospitalization — United States, March 2020–September 2021](#)
- [COVID-19–Associated Deaths After SARS-CoV-2 Infection During Pregnancy — Mississippi, March 1, 2020–October 6, 2021](#)
- [Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Emergency Department Visits, and Hospitalizations Because of COVID-19 Among Persons Aged ≥12 Years, by COVID-19 Vaccination Status — Oregon and Washington, July 4–September 25, 2021](#)
- [Automated Digital Notification of COVID-19 Diagnoses Through Text and Email Messaging — North Carolina, December 2020–January 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness — Six U.S. Jurisdictions, December 2020–August 2021](#)
- [Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, March–April 2021](#)

## HOT OFF THE (LAY) PRESS

- *New York Times*
  - [President Biden is expected to unveil a winter Covid plan today that includes insurance reimbursement for at-home tests and new travel protocols](#)
  - [President Biden will extend a mask mandate for travelers on airplanes, trains and buses, a person familiar with the decision said.](#)





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- [Biden vows to fight Omicron with ‘science and speed, not chaos and confusion.’](#)
- [Why Omicron was First Found in San Francisco](#)
- [California Reports First Omicron Case in U.S.](#)
- [Omicron Variant, in at Least 20 Nations, Spread Earlier Than Was Known](#)
- [Omicron: What Is Known — and Still Unknown](#)
- [Will the Vaccines Stop Omicron? Scientists Are Racing to Find Out](#)
- [President Biden sought to reassure the nation on the Omicron variant, calling it “a cause for concern, not a cause for panic.”](#)
- [Fears over a new variant prompted at least 10 nations to limit travel from African countries, and sent markets around the world tumbling.](#)
- [The U.S. will restrict travel from South Africa and seven other African countries to contain the new variant of the coronavirus, officials said.](#)
- [A new variant of the coronavirus, whose mutations display a “jump in evolution,” is driving a spike in Covid infections in South Africa.](#)
- [U.S. pediatricians say Covid cases in children are on the rise.](#)
- [A federal judge blocked President Biden’s nationwide vaccine mandate for health workers. The new rule was set to begin next week.](#)
- [An expert panel recommended that the F.D.A. authorize Merck’s Covid pill for high-risk adults, which the agency could do within days.](#)
- [Omicron prompts swift reconsideration of boosters among scientists](#)
- [Pfizer is expected to apply for approval of their coronavirus booster shot for 16- and 17-year-olds. The F.D.A. could authorize it within a week.](#)
- [The C.D.C. strengthened its Covid booster advice to say all adults “should” get a shot, as scientists race to understand the Omicron variant.](#)
- [F.D.A. Authorizes Coronavirus Booster Shots for All Adults](#)
- *Reuters*
  - [U.S. steps up fight against Omicron as variant marches across globe](#)
  - [U.S. imposes travel ban from eight African countries over Omicron variant](#)
  - [Britain expands COVID booster programme as eight more Omicron cases found](#)
  - [Germany not ruling out lockdown, even for the vaccinated](#)
  - [Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna expect data on shot's protection against new COVID-19 variant soon](#)
  - [Explainer: How worried should we be about the Omicron variant?](#)
  - [Dutch: Some of the 61 COVID cases from South Africa flights are new variant](#)
  - [Experimental chewing gum may reduce virus spread; Booster shot protection may be longer lasting](#)
  - [U.S. to buy 10 mln courses of Pfizer's COVID-19 pill for \\$5.3 bln](#)
  - [U.S. not heading toward COVID lockdown, White House says](#)
- *Politico*
  - [New Covid variant triggers urgent moment for Biden health team](#)
- *The Washington Post*
  - [Stricter coronavirus testing being weighed for all travelers to U.S.](#)
  - [Austria becomes Europe’s first country to demand vaccination for all](#)
  - [South Africa, first to reveal omicron, braces for covid case surge, including among young children](#)
  - [Existing vaccines might not be as effective against omicron variant, Moderna CEO says](#)
- *Science Alert*
  - [Several Manufacturers Are Already Testing Their COVID-19 Vaccines Against Omicron](#)





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- [World's First COVID-19 Pill Closer to Reality After Green Light From FDA Panel](#)
- *CNBC News*
  - [Pfizer could have a new vaccine against omicron Covid variant in less than 100 days, CEO Bourla says](#)
  - [Amazon rolled back Covid safety protocols in warehouses, says New York attorney general](#)
  - [Biden administration asks federal appeals court to immediately lift pause on business vaccine mandate](#)
- *Netherlands Institute for Public Health and the Environment News*
  - [Omicron variant found in two previous test samples](#)
- *ABC News*
  - [South African scientists brace for wave propelled by omicron](#)
- *AP News*
  - [US to require vaccines for all border crossers in January](#)
  - [FDA: Merck COVID pill effective, experts will review safety](#)
- *The New Yorker*
  - [How Will the COVID Pills Change the Pandemic?](#)
- *Regeneron Press Releases*
  - [Regeneron Evaluating REGEN-COV® and Next Generation Antibodies against New Omicron COVID-19 Variant](#)
- *The Hill*
  - [NYC officials recommend masks indoors, but won't reimpose mandates](#)
  - [Tensions emerge over redefining the fully vaccinated](#)
  - [TSA reports 93 percent compliance with vaccine mandate ahead of the holidays](#)
  - [Disney cruises will require vaccines for all passengers over 5 years old](#)
- *CBS News*
  - [Military service members face deadline to get COVID-19 vaccine or face disciplinary action](#)
- *Willis Towers Watson Press Releases*
  - [Over half of U.S. employers will require employee vaccines, Willis Towers Watson survey finds](#)
- *EurekaAlert!*
  - [COVID-19 linked to heart inflammation in college athletes](#)
  - [Large international study reveals spectrum of COVID-19 brain complications](#)
- *NPR*
  - [Cracked teeth: Covid stress is getting to a lot of us](#)
- *Scientific American*
  - [Do Childhood Colds Help the Body Respond to COVID?](#)
- *Imperial College London News*
  - [COVID-19 vaccination cuts infection risk by half in school-aged children - REACT](#)
- *The Atlantic*
  - [COVID Sure Looks Seasonal Now](#)
- *AXIOS*
  - [Axios-Ipsos poll: Thanksgiving roulette](#)
- *The Independent Panel*
  - [Pandemic reform agenda is moving, but not fast or cohesive enough](#)
- *Medical Xpress*
  - [New analysis predicts how well vaccines will work against COVID-19 strains](#)





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- *Merck News Releases*
  - [Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics Provide Update on Results from MOVE-OUT Study of Molnupiravir, an Investigational Oral Antiviral Medicine, in At Risk Adults With Mild-to-Moderate COVID-19](#)
- *Pfizer Press Releases*
  - [FOLLOW-UP DATA FROM PHASE 3 TRIAL OF PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE SUPPORT SAFETY AND HIGH EFFICACY IN ADOLESCENTS 12 THROUGH 15 YEARS OF AGE](#)
  - [PFIZER AND BIONTECH ANNOUNCE PHASE 3 TRIAL DATA SHOWING HIGH EFFICACY OF A BOOSTER DOSE OF THEIR COVID-19 VACCINE](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*
  - [Omicron variant spreads globally, sparking fears of winter COVID-19 surge](#)
- *San Francisco Chronicle*
  - [First U.S. omicron case found in San Francisco. Here's what we know](#)

## EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
  - [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 in the USA](#) – daily summary of key data on COVID-19 in the U.S.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Children and COVID-19: State Level Data Report](#)
- [California COVID-19 by the numbers](#) are available on the [CDPH Website](#) and the [NYT Map and Table](#) (includes data by county)
  - [California COVID-19 Statewide Update as of December 3, 2021](#)
- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

## ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Clinicians and Facilities – COVID-19 Digests](#)
- [Palo Alto Online tracking the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties](#)
- [California COVID-19 Data and Tools](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Assessment and Modeling Tool](#)
- [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations Population COVID-19 Tracking Dashboards](#)
- [CDC Interactive Serology Dashboard for Commercial Laboratory Surveys](#)
- [HHS Coronavirus Data Hub](#)
- [COVID-19 Nursing Home Data](#)

