

# THE OMICRON VARIANT: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

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On November 26th, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the Omicron variant of Coronavirus a "variant of concern"



On December 1st, the nation's first case of the Omicron variant was detected and reported in California.

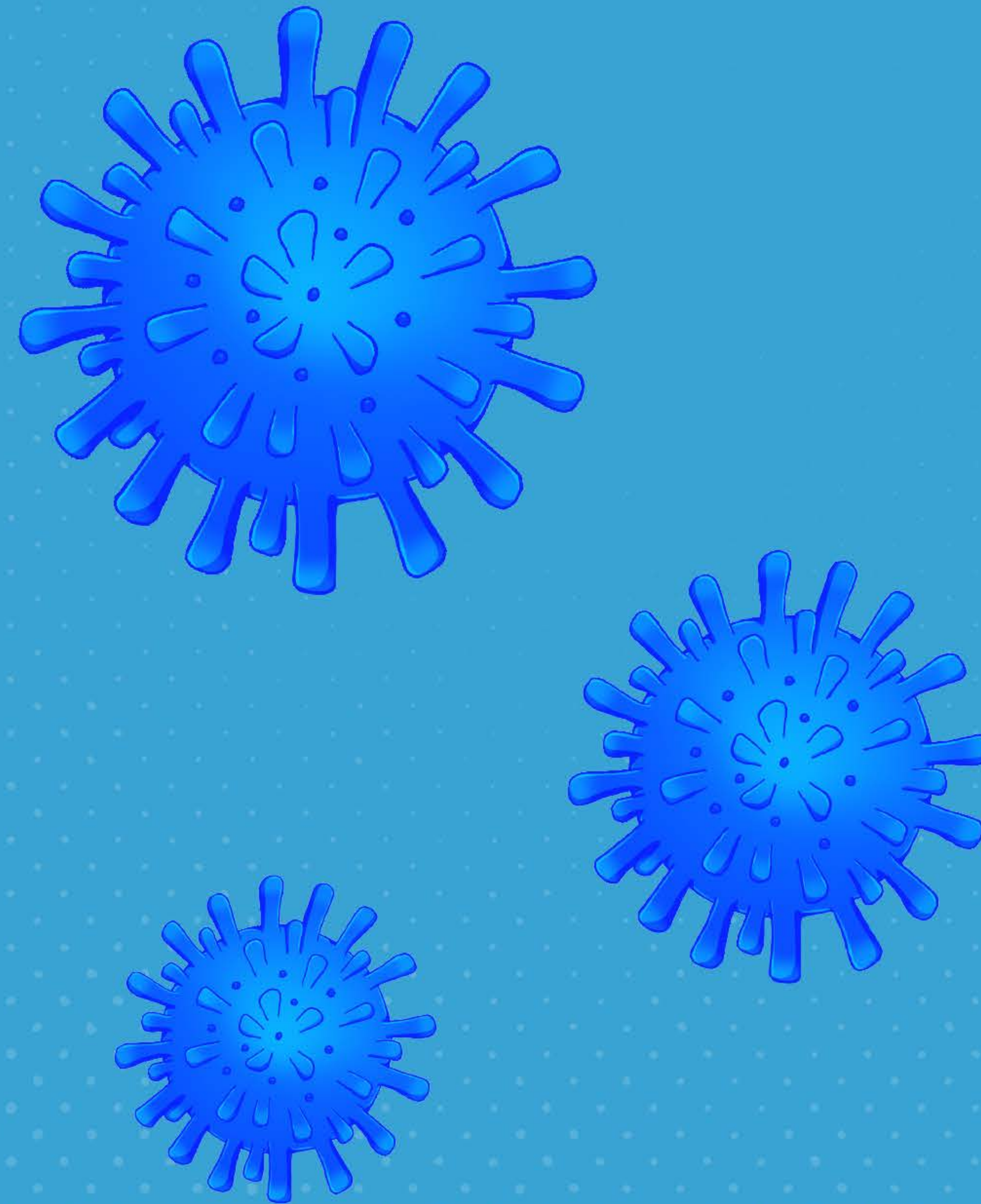




# HOW DOES OMICRON DIFFER FROM OTHER VARIANTS?

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This new variant has many **mutations** in important areas of the virus that impact infectiousness and the ability for immune systems to protect from infection.



Early evidence suggests there may be an **increased risk of reinfection with Omicron** (meaning, people who have previously had COVID-19 could become reinfected more easily with Omicron), as compared to other variants of concern, but information is limited.

We do not know at this time if this new variant causes more severe COVID-19 illness than other variants or how it might impact response to treatment.





# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE

## GET VACCINATED

Californians ages 5 and older are now eligible for vaccination. Additionally, everyone who is at least six months from their last dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or at least two months since J&J, are eligible for a booster.

## WEAR A MASK REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

## GET TESTED IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE FEELING SYMPTOMS

## STAY HOME if sick

