Molnupiravir, remdesivir, booster protection, neutralisation and severity of Omicron

Peer reviewed journals featured:

- Randomised controlled trials of:
  - Molnupiravir for oral treatment of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised patients [here](#)
  - Early remdesivir to prevent progression to severe COVID-19 in outpatients [here](#)
- Observational studies on:
  - COVID-19 vaccination effectiveness in the US Veterans Affairs healthcare system [here](#)
  - Two-dose Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine protection against COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths over time [here](#)
  - Comirnaty (Pfizer) booster and COVID-19 mortality [here](#)
  - COVID-19 protection by Comirnaty (Pfizer) booster across age groups [here](#)
- Commentary on:
  - Risk heterogeneity and the illusion of waning vaccine efficacy [here](#)
  - The evolving COVID-19 pandemic in the Winter of Omicron [here](#)

Pre-peer review articles featured:

- Projected epidemiological consequences of the Omicron variant in England [here](#)
- Potential severity, mitigation, and control of Omicron waves depending on immunity status [here](#)
- Pseudotyped Omicron variant exhibits significant escape from neutralisation induced by a third booster dose of vaccination [here](#)
- Neutralisation and stability of Omicron variant [here](#)
- Superior immunogenicity and effectiveness of the 3rd Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine dose [here](#)
- Breakthrough infections during periods of circulating Beta, Delta, and Omicron variants among healthcare workers in the Sisonke vaccine trial, South Africa [here](#)
- SARS-CoV-2 transmission dynamics in South Africa and epidemiological characteristics of the Omicron variant [here](#)
- A rapid rise in paediatric COVID-19 hospitalisations in the early stages of the Omicron wave, Tshwane District, South Africa [here](#)
- Increased risk of Omicron infection compared to Delta in vaccinated and previously infected people in the Netherlands [here](#)
- Early assessment of the clinical severity of the Omicron variant in South Africa [here](#)
• Omicron mutations enhance infectivity and reduce antibody neutralisation of SARS-CoV-2 virus-like particles [here](#).
• South African population immunity and severe COVID-19 with Omicron variant [here](#).
• mRNA vaccine effectiveness against Omicron or Delta variants after two-dose or booster [here](#).
• Rapid epidemic expansion of the Omicron variant in southern Africa [here](#).
• Diminished neutralisation responses to Omicron after mRNA or vector-based vaccinations [here](#).
• Protection from Comirnaty (Pfizer) booster and fresh 2-dose vaccines [here](#).
• Different booster regimens for preventing infection and adverse outcomes in Puerto Rico [here](#).
• Outpatient therapies for COVID-19 [here](#).

**Guidance and reports**

• The World Health Organization published:
  o An updated Technical Brief on enhancing readiness for Omicron (B.1.1.529) [here](#).
  o Guidance on mask use by health workers, in light of the Omicron variant of concern [here](#).
  o COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance on mask use in community settings [here](#).
• The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control published:
  o Its weekly epidemiological update on Omicron variant of concern (VOC) [here](#).
  o A risk assessment on further emergence of Omicron variant [here](#).
• Imperial College published a report on hospitalisation risk for Omicron cases in England [here](#).

**News and blogs**

• How severe are Omicron infections? [here](#).
• Omicron overpowers key COVID-19 antibody treatments in early tests [here](#).
• How COVID-19 vaccines shaped 2021 in eight powerful charts [here](#).
• Vaccination doesn’t eliminate Delta variant household transmission [here](#).
• Health leaders advise the public to reduce social contacts to keep NHS running [here](#).

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**Living Evidence Tables**

Living Evidence tables are up-to-date summaries of emerging evidence. Tables are available on [COVID-19 transmission](#), SARS-CoV-2 [vaccines](#), and [variants](#) of concern, [post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC)](#), [surgery and COVID-19](#), [rapid testing](#) and [risk mitigation strategies](#).