



Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) Status Update on the Pandemic July 12, 2022



Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Chairman

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FACTS

The Washington Post reports that the newest omicron subvariants of COVID-19, BA.4 and BA.5 are “the worst version of the virus that we’ve seen.”

- More than 75% of the country is experiencing medium or high transmissibility.
- Although hospitalizations and deaths are coming down, the virus continues to evolve, increasing transmissibility and evading immunity.
- The sub variants BA.4 and BA.5, now account for over 70% of all new infections in the U.S., and New York and California have been especially hard hit.
- The central U.S. is seeing rates rise nearly 30% in two weeks.
- Alabama and Mississippi continue to have the lowest vaccination rate among U.S. states, and they are among the states with the highest Black population
- No vaccine is 100% effective in preventing infection; however, the COVID vaccines are most effective in preventing hospitalization and death.
- Stay up to date with vaccinations — they are the best protection against severe COVID-19 illness.



WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

- Get tested! The third set of FREE COVID tests now available! This time you get 8 for free: [Click here to order tests kits](#) or go to <http://covidtest.gov>.
- Get vaccinated and boosted. Vaccinations are still our best defense against hospitalization and death. Find a COVID-19 vaccine near you: www.vaccines.gov
- Wear an N95 mask, if available, in public spaces, especially if you are unsure of the vaccination status of the people in your church or community.
- The best mask to wear is the one you will wear correctly and consistently, covering your nose and mouth.
- Avoid crowded indoor spaces.
- Keep an eye on your local community’s transmission rate. If it is medium to high, proper masking and social distancing are the best ways to avoid infection or infecting others.



GET THE FACTS

Protect yourself and your baby from COVID-19. Get vaccinated.



- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.
- There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause problems with becoming pregnant.
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant can protect you from getting very sick from COVID-19.
- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, COVID-19 vaccination builds antibodies that can transfer to and help protect your baby.
- The COVID-19 vaccine has gone through the same strict development studies that all vaccines go through to ensure they are safe.

Ask your healthcare provider about the COVID-19 vaccine.



cdc.gov/coronavirus