

OMICRON

By

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I am being asked multiple times per day by my patients if they should be worried about the new variant of COVID-19 Omicron even if they've been fully vaccinated by all 3 shots including the booster.

The short answer is no as long as you have been well vaccinated. The long answer is that omicron is the 13th letter in the Greek alphabet and it is the 13th variant of the novel COVID-19 alpha virus originally discovered in Wuhan, China in November, 2019. Omicron was first discovered and reported on November 24, 2021 in South Africa and quickly spread in 7 surrounding countries in Africa. Since the African population is vastly under-vaccinated, it presents an opportunity for the virus to mutate quickly. Reports from South African physicians indicate that the symptoms are mild to moderate and do not require hospitalization unlike the more virulent alpha and delta variants. Symptoms include fever, headaches, body aches, shortness of breath, chest congestion, and sore throat which are very similar to flu symptoms.

We live in the jet age where it's possible to travel around the world in less than a day. It's very easy and possible to spread viruses throughout the world quickly and unknowingly. In two years, COVID-19 virus has killed 786,000 Americans. That is more than AIDS/HIV virus has killed in 40 years. The only way to get this virus and its variants under control is to get at least 90% of the world population vaccinated. Even though President Biden closed the borders to foreigners, he cannot close the borders to US citizens traveling from abroad. Please get your friends and relatives to go to a local drugstore and get vaccinated.