



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COVID-19 Press Briefing

December 22, 2021



Daily Change in COVID-19 Cases, US

January 22, 2020 – December 20, 2021

TOTAL Cases Reported Since 1/22/20

51,115,304

NEW Cases Reported to CDC on 12/20/21

288,579

Change in 7-Day Case Average

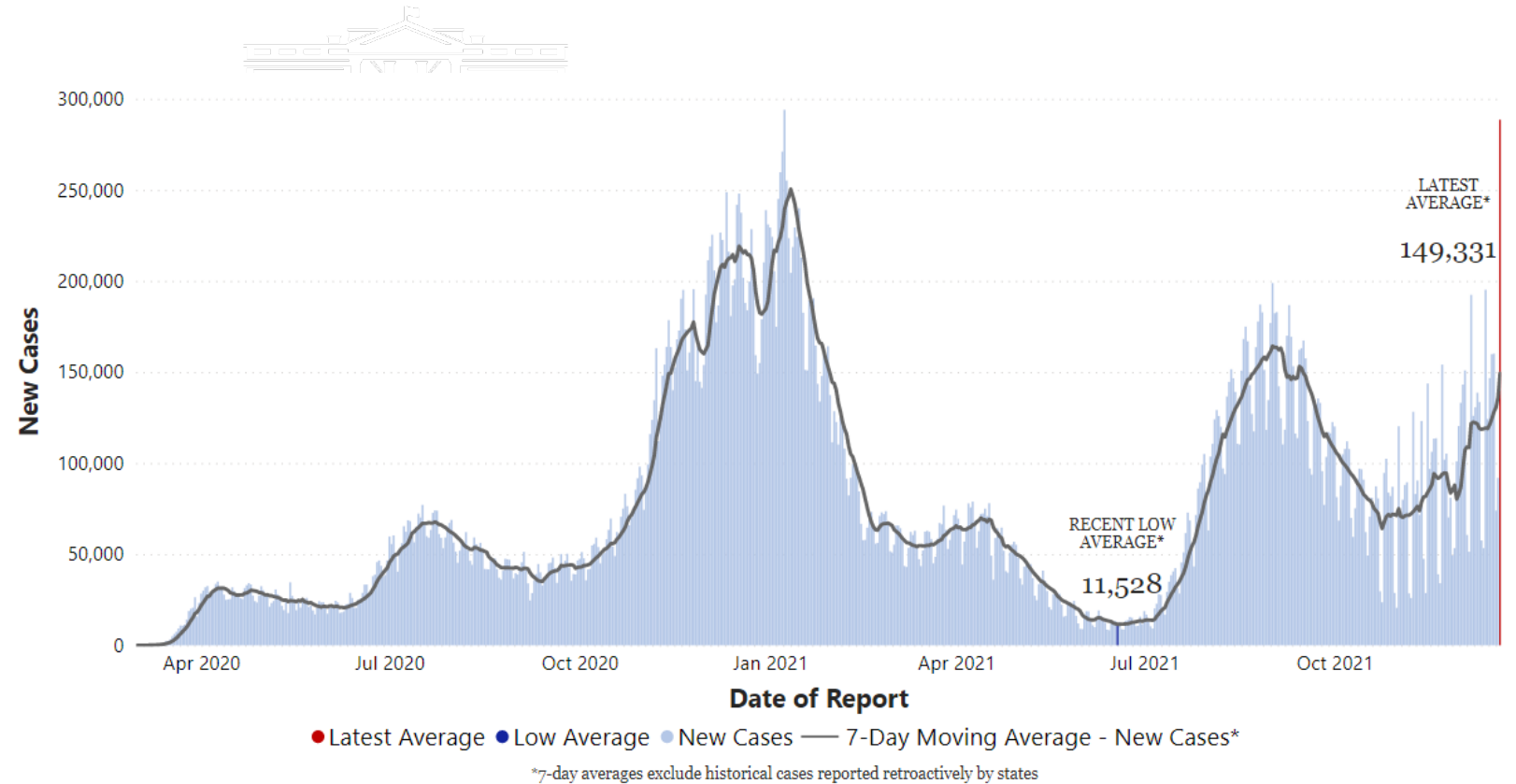
+25.2%

Current 7-Day Case Average (12/14/21 - 12/20/21)

149,331

Prior 7-Day Case Average (12/7/21 - 12/13/21)

119,282



New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19, US

August 1, 2020 – December 19, 2021

Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID on 12/19/21

59,082

New Admissions on 12/19/21

7,056

Peak in New Admissions (1/5/21)

17,965

Change in 7-Day Average of New Admissions

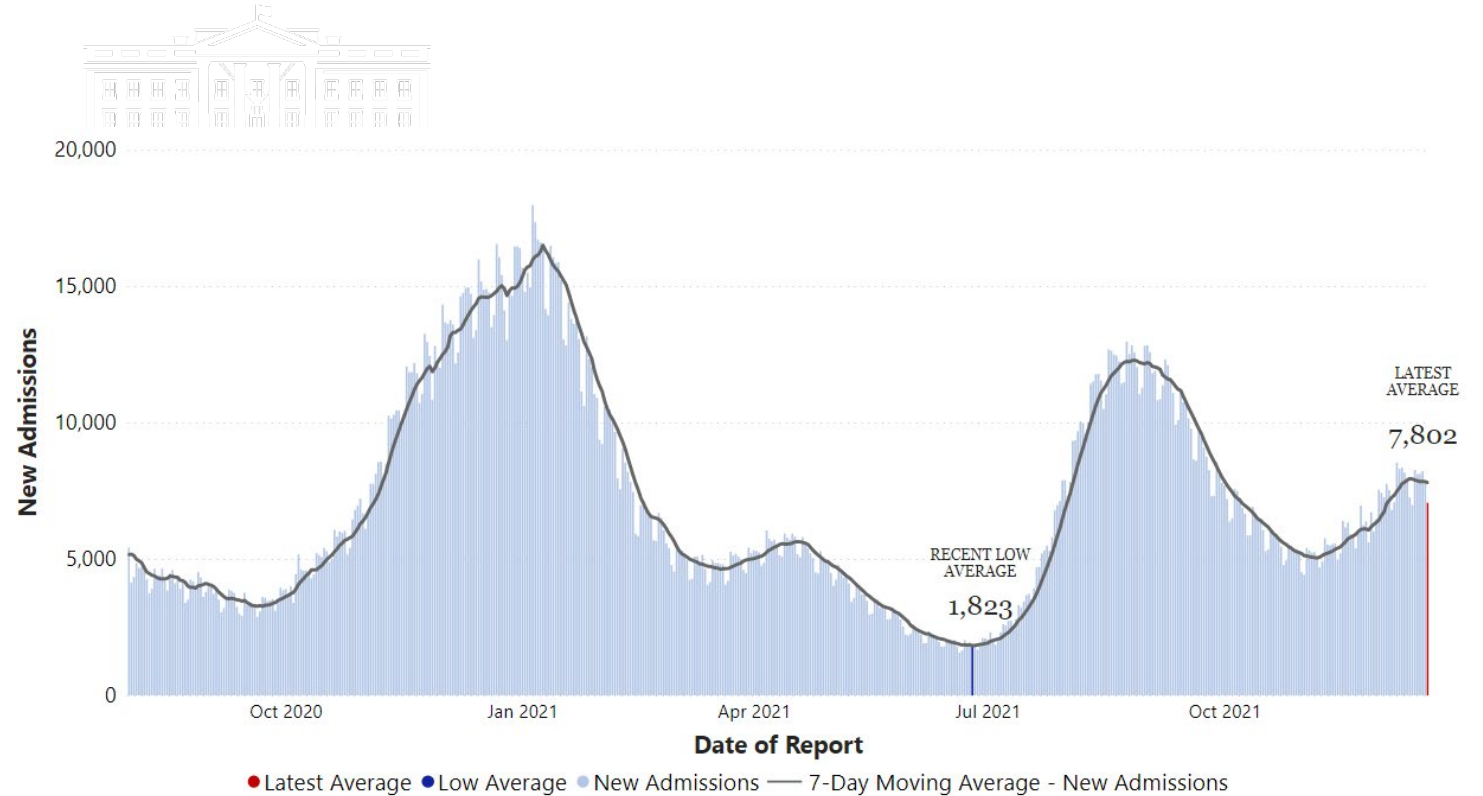
-1.8%

Current 7-Day Average of New Admissions (12/13/21 - 12/19/21)

7,802

Prior 7-Day Average of New Admissions (12/6/21 - 12/12/21)

7,945



Daily Change in COVID-19 Deaths, US

January 22, 2020 – December 20, 2021

TOTAL Deaths Reported Since 1/22/2020

805,112

NEW Deaths Reported to CDC on 12/20/21

1,373

Change in 7-Day Death Average

+3.5%

Current 7-Day Death Average (12/14/21 - 12/20/21)

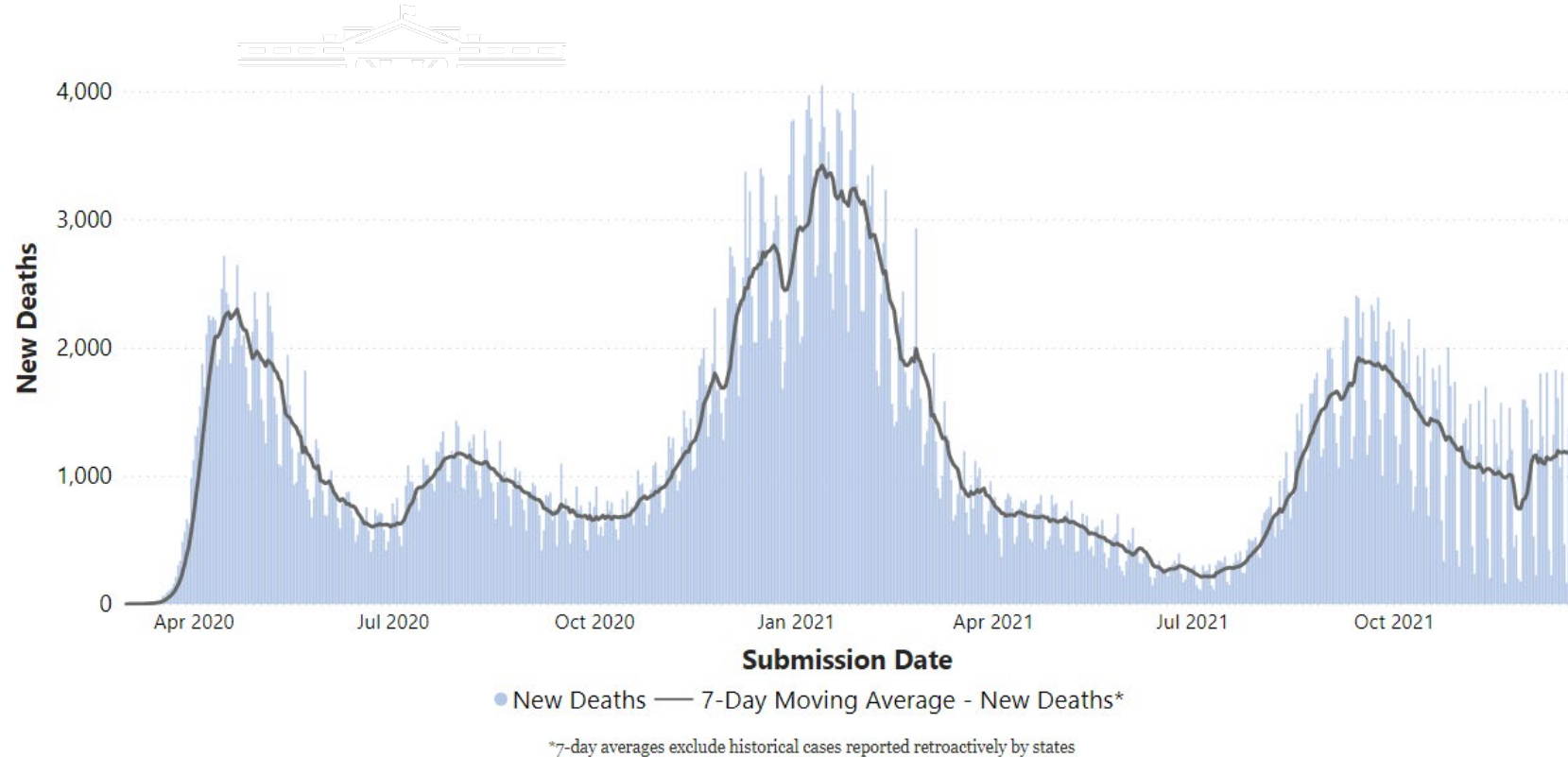
1,188

Prior 7-Day Death Average (12/7/21 - 12/13/21)

1,148

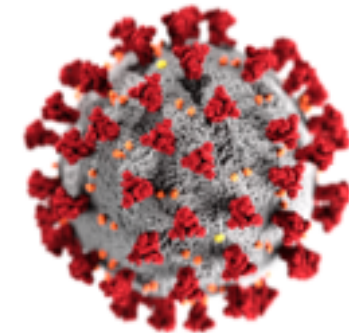
Forecasted Total Deaths by 01/08/22

837,000 to 845,000

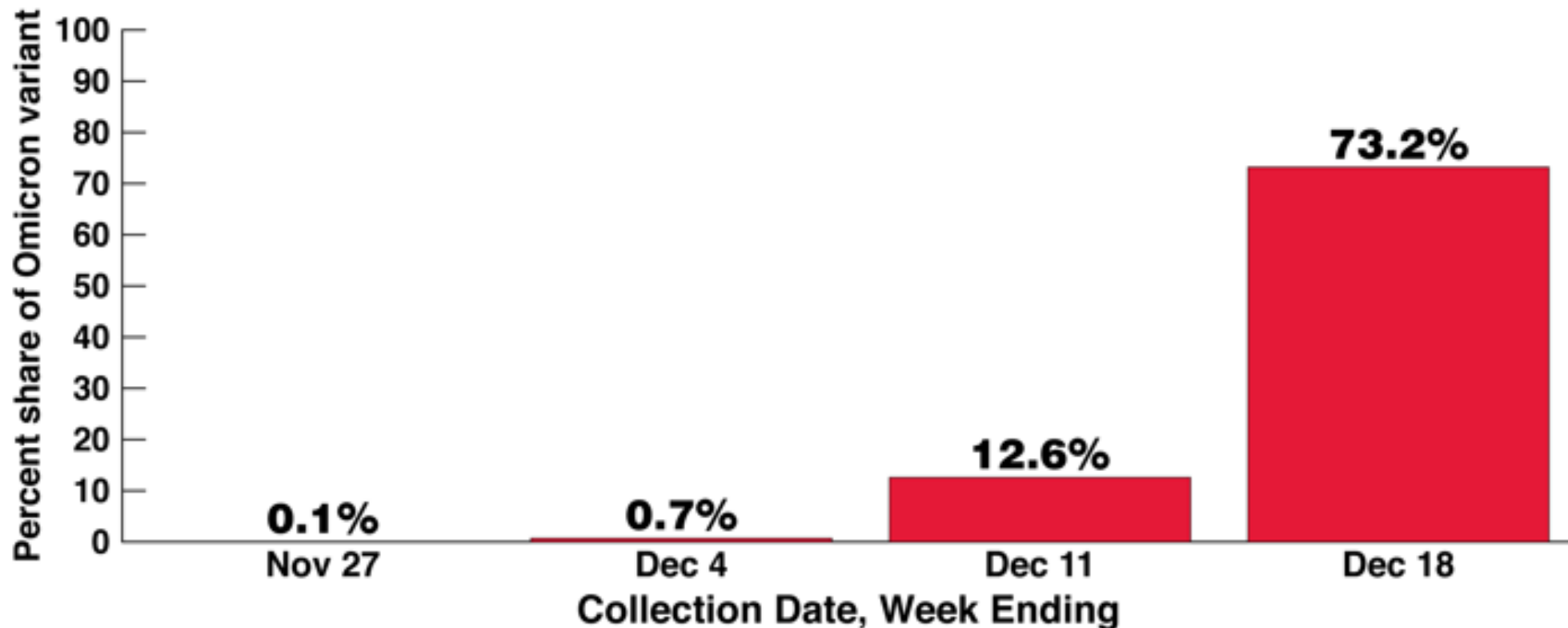


Omicron: Recent Developments

- **Transmissibility**
- **Severity of disease**
- **Vaccines/evasion of immunity**
- **Potential impact on therapeutics**



Estimated Weekly Proportion of Omicron Variant Among Sequenced SARS-CoV-2 Samples, United States



Source: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions, 12/20/2021.



Early Assessment of the Clinical Severity of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant in South Africa

N Wolter, C Cohen et al.

- **N= 11,495 SARS-CoV-2 infections**
- **When compared to Delta infections, Omicron infections were associated with 70% lower odds of severe disease.**

Omicron: Vaccines and Immune Evasion

In vitro data

- Marked reduction in Omicron neutralizing activity by 2-dose mRNA vaccinee sera compared to earlier variants
- Anti-Omicron antibody activity is 20-40 fold higher in sera from boosted vaccinees

Clinical data

- Vaccine efficacy against symptomatic infection wanes several months after 2-dose mRNA vaccine regimen. However, a moderate-to-high vaccine effectiveness (75%) is seen in the early period after a booster dose
 - VE against severe disease after booster likely to be higher

Sources: UK Health Security Agency; outbreak.info; opendata.ncats.nih.gov



Omicron and COVID-19 Therapeutics

■ Monoclonal antibody treatments

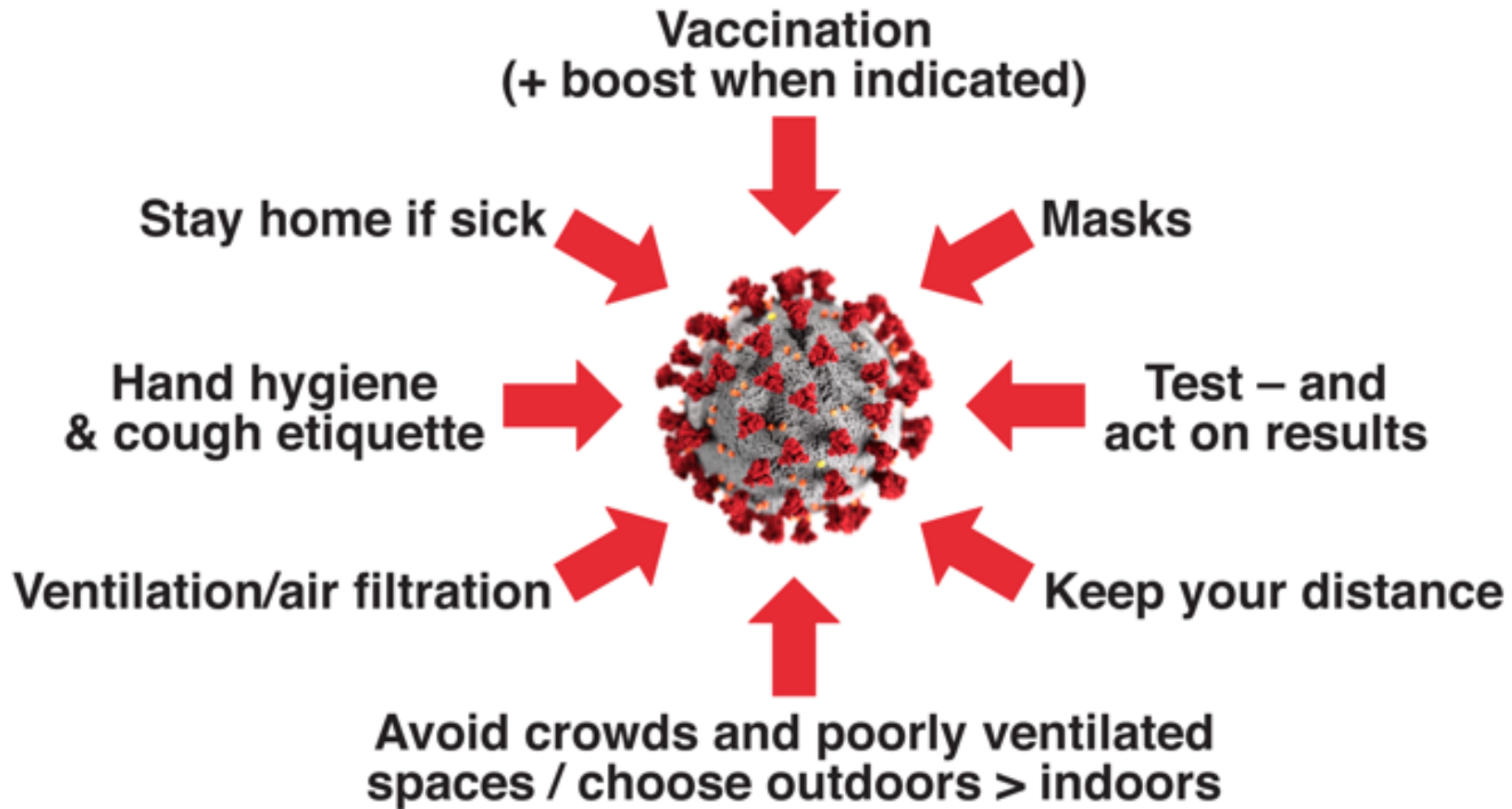
	Anticipated clinical activity against Omicron
Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab (Lilly)	Unlikely
Casirivimab/Imdevimab (Regeneron)	Unlikely
Sotrovimab (GSK/Vir)	Yes
Evusheld (AZ)	Likely

- ## ■ Small-molecule antivirals (e.g. molnupiravir, paxlovid, remdesivir)
- Minimal impact expected

Sources: NIH COVID-19 treatment guidelines; opendata.ncats.nih.gov/variant/activity



Combination COVID-19 Prevention





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WH.GOV