

GOVERNMENT

Apprehension builds as COVID-19 cases break daily records worldwide

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Vaccinations and other mitigation efforts are keeping hospitalizations and deaths from growing exponentially. Image credit: Shutterstock

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

COVID-19 cases continue to grow across the world, as many countries are seeing record daily infections reported during the Omnicron surge.

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The *South China Morning Post* has reported that parts of the United States, Europe and Australia are seeing record numbers of infections and that almost 900,000 cases were detected each day globally between December 22-28. Although the numbers are surging, several government officials across the globe are stating that they do not believe that the death toll and hospitalization rates will be as high as they were during previous variants and the initial introduction of the virus.

Responding, preparing and attempting to prevent the spread

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** report that about 61.9 percent of the American population is fully vaccinated against the virus.

As of Wednesday, the United Kingdom cited 183,037 new cases of COVID-19, a new record for daily infections. In the last seven days, the U.K. has registered more than 900,000 new cases of the virus, a more than 41 percent increase compared to the week prior.



Omicron is the new and highly mutated COVID-19 variant. Image credit: Shutterstock

CNN reports that the death rate remained low however when compared to previous cases in the U.K., at 0.9 fatalities per 100,000 deaths.

Although previous waves of COVID-19 infections have impacted the stock market, The Dow Jones Industrial Average grew 100.65 points, 0.28 percent, on Dec. 29.

On Wednesday, Dr. Anthony Fauci strongly recommended against attending large gatherings for New Year's Eve.

Earlier this week, the CDC amended the guidelines for those infected with COVID-19, cutting the isolation and quarantine periods in half. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also mentioned a benefit for those who have received their booster shots.

"If you are boosted or have been vaccinated with your Pfizer or Moderna series in the past six months or your J&J shot in the past two months, no quarantine is needed," Dr. Walensky said in a statement. "However, a mask must be worn for 10 days following your known exposure, and we also recommend getting a test on day five after your exposure."

"On the other hand, we know that after five days, people are much less likely to transmit the virus and that masking further reduces that risk," she said. "And this is why people need to mask for five days after their five days of isolation."

"This science, as well as what we know about the protection provided by masking, vaccination and booster doses and about our testing programs, are all part of what informed our updated recommendations."

The luxury industry is also preparing for continued ripple effects of the COVID-19 virus, reflected in stock impacts, travel restrictions and general closures ([see story](#)).