



TOP PRIORITY

The highest priority is the safety of those who live, study, and work within the Garrett community.

Caption: Heart



Misconceptions about Vaccines and Booster

MYTH: The ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous.

FACT: Nearly all the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are also ingredients in many foods – fats, sugars, and salts.

MYTH: The natural immunity I get from being sick with COVID-19 is better than the immunity I get from COVID-19 vaccination.

FACT: Getting a COVID-19 vaccination is a safer and more dependable way to build immunity to COVID-19 than getting sick with COVID-19

MYTH: A COVID-19 vaccine can make me sick with COVID-19.

FACT: Because none of the authorized [COVID-19 vaccines in the United States](#) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, the vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

After getting vaccinated for COVID-19, you might experience some temporary symptoms similar to those you might notice when you get a flu shot, such as a sore, swollen arm where you got the shot. You might run a fever and experience body aches, headaches and tiredness for a day or two. Chills, swollen lymph nodes can also occur. These symptoms do not mean you are sick. They signal that your immune system is responding to the shots and building up protection against the coronavirus.



Garrett

The CDC recommends everyone get a booster shot

Media Statement

For Immediate Release: Monday, November 29, 2021

Contact: [Media Relations](#)

(404) 639-3286

The following is attributable to CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky

Today, CDC is strengthening its recommendation on booster doses for individuals who are 18 years and older. Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are 6 months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or 2 months after their initial J&J vaccine.

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. Early data from South Africa suggest increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, and scientists in the United States and around the world are urgently examining vaccine effectiveness related to this variant. I strongly encourage the 47 million adults who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible and to vaccinate the children and teens in their families as well because strong immunity will likely prevent serious illness. I also want to encourage people to get a COVID-19 test if they are sick. Increased testing will help us identify Omicron quickly.



Garrett

The IDPH recommends everyone get a booster shot

Illinois Department of Public Health Recommends Booster Doses for All Eligible Individuals

News – Friday, November 19, 2021

[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#)

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), following the Food and Drug Administration’s decision to open COVID-19 booster shots to all, is recommending anyone 18 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose six months after receiving their second Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, or two months after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

“For continued, ongoing protection, we are urging everyone who is eligible to get a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine to get one,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “Scientific and medical experts have reviewed the data and found booster doses are beneficial. While we need more people who are completely unvaccinated to get their first doses, we cannot risk losing some of the protection the vaccines have already provided due to waning immunity.”

Early data show that the vaccines effectiveness against COVID-19 infections is decreasing over time. The lower effectiveness is likely due to the combination of decreasing protection as time passes since getting vaccinated, as well as the greater infectiousness of the Delta variant. Getting a booster shot is not uncommon. This happens every year with seasonal flu vaccine.

While you should get the same type of vaccine for both your first and second doses, the CDC has said mix and matching vaccines for booster shots is allowed. For example, if you received two doses of the Moderna vaccine, you may opt to get a Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for your booster dose. Or if you received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you may choose Moderna for your booster dose. You just need to wait 6 months after your second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, or 2 months after your one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Individuals can contact their health care provider or visit www.vaccines.gov to find a nearby location to receive a booster dose. People who have questions about vaccines and booster doses can call the COVID-19 Call Center at 1-833-621-1284.



Garrett

Northwestern requires all students, staff, and faculty to get a booster shot

COVID-19 booster shot requirement and Wildcat Wellness in January

Student Message

Faculty and Staff Message

Dear students,

Today, we provide important updates about the Winter Quarter that further our ongoing efforts to protect the Northwestern community from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Subject to limited exceptions, Northwestern will now require all students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccination **booster shot** by Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, or 30 days after becoming eligible for a booster, whichever is later.

Additionally, we will shift all classes and co-curricular activities to remote modality from Jan. 1 through Jan. 17 as the campus observes **Wildcat Wellness**, though students are welcome to return to campus on the regular schedule. In-person classes and activities will resume at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18, after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The fast spread of the omicron variant and guidance from our medical experts have caused us to reconsider the plans we shared with you earlier this month. We announce these decisions today to provide you as much time as possible to plan for January. Some of the details have shifted from the guidance in prior announcements, so please read this message carefully.



Garrett

Multiple studies support effectiveness

January 11, 2022, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported that COVID-19 boosters have a relative effectiveness of 90% to 95% against severe disease or death. “This means that if the absolute effectiveness of two vaccine doses is 90%, the absolute effectiveness of two doses plus a booster is 99 to 100%.” (Minal K. Patel, MD, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s COVID-19 Response International Task Force).

January 10, 2022, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that the incidence of SARS-CoV-2 was 116 per 100,000 person-days prior to booster vaccination and 12.8 per 100,000 after booster vaccination, for an estimated relative reduction of 93%.

December 8, 2021, Pfizer documented that a third dose increased antibodies 25-fold compared with two doses against the Omicron variant, the company said.

Infections increased significantly



COVID-19 Weekly Cases per 100,000 Population by Race/Ethnicity, United States

March 01, 2020 - January 08, 2022*



Jurisdiction
Region 5

3/7/2020 1/14/2022

Cases

Sex

Age - All Groups

Pediatric Case Proportions

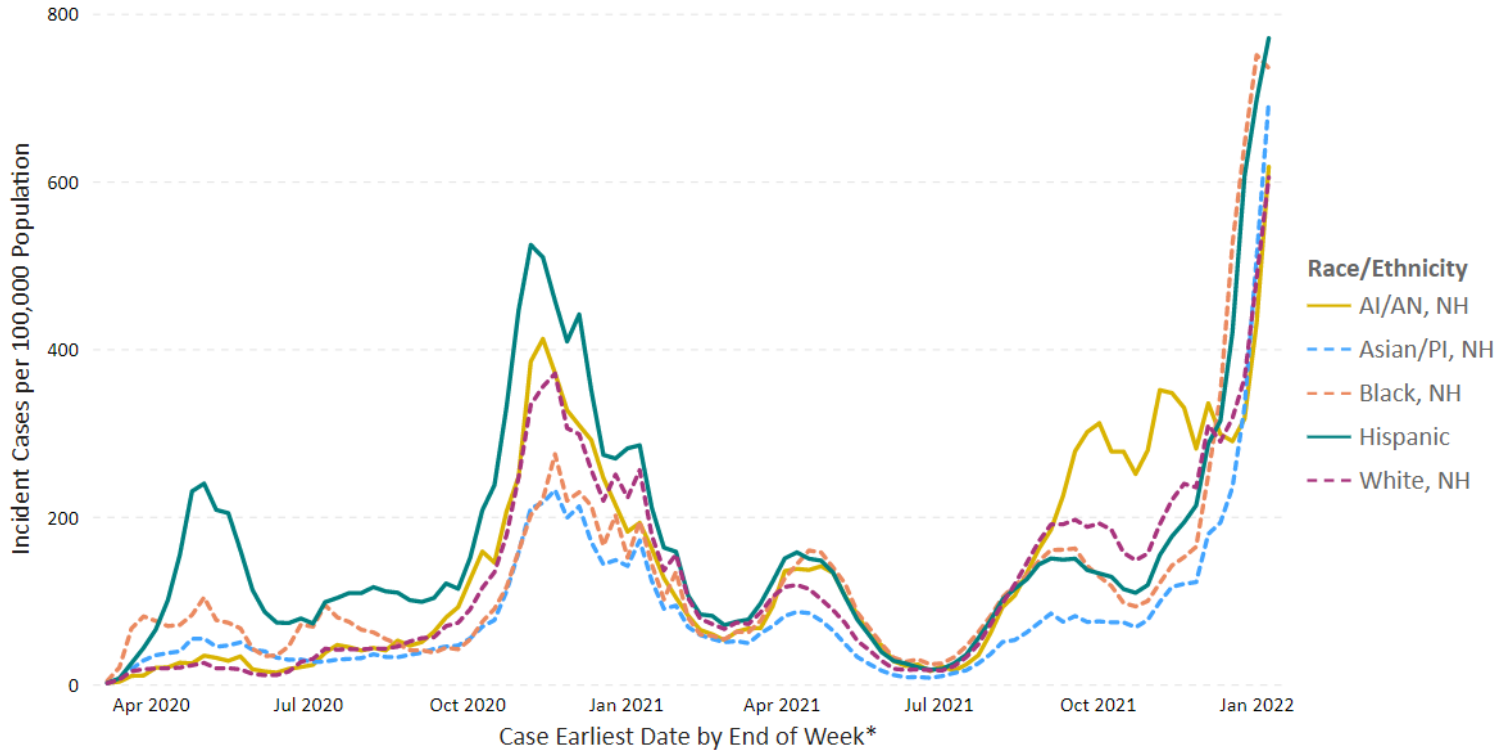
Race/Ethnicity

Deaths

Sex

Age - All Groups

Race/Ethnicity



Region 5: The most recent line level case record was reported during the week ending on Jan 29, 2022. Percentage of cases reporting race by date - 68.03%.

US territories are included in case and death counts but not in population counts. Potential six-week delay in case reporting to CDC denoted by gray bars. AI = American Indian, AN = Alaska Native, NH = Non-Hispanic, PI = Pacific Islander. Excludes cases with unknown or multiple races. *Case Earliest Date is the earliest of the clinical date (related to illness or specimen collection and chosen by a defined hierarchy) and the Date Received by CDC. The date for the current week extends through Saturday.

^Case rates during the week ending Aug 07, 2021 are reflective of a data reporting artifact from South Dakota. Surveillance data are provisional, and as additional clinical data becomes available, the case rates over time are subject to change.

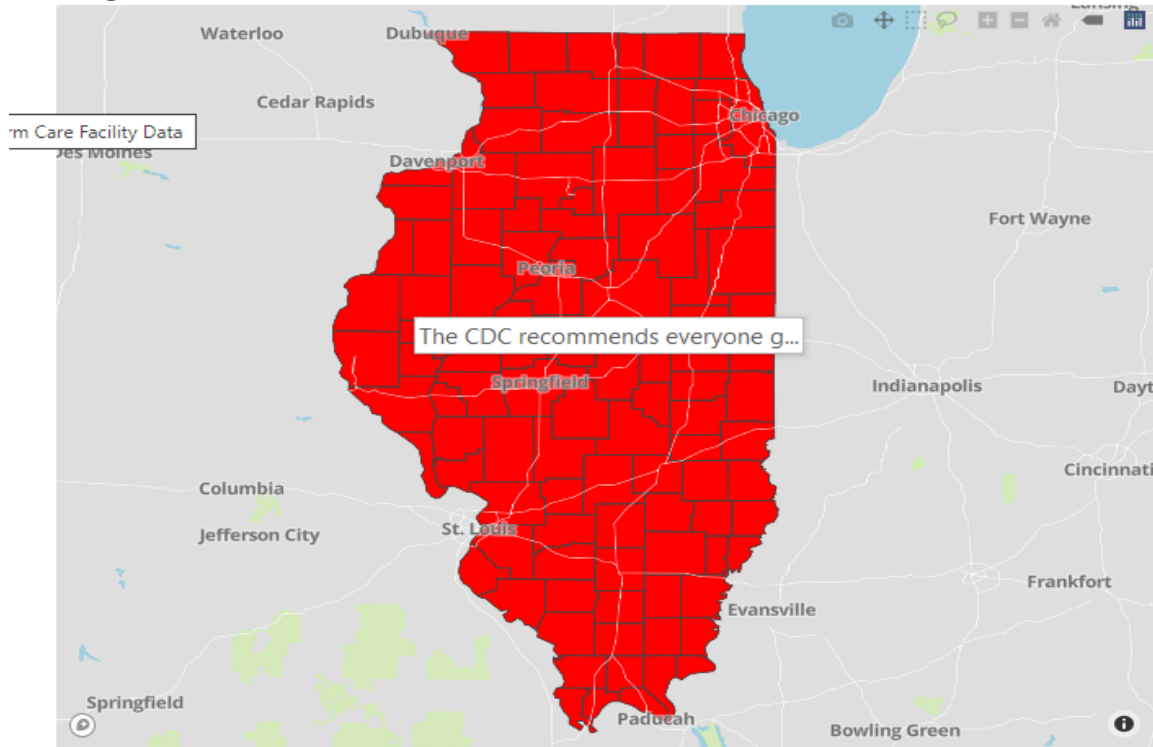
Last Updated: Jan 31, 2022

Source: CDC COVID-19 Case Line-Level Data, 2019 US Census, HHS Protect; Visualization: Data, Analytics & Visualization Task Force and CDC CPR DEO Situational Awareness Public Health Science Team



Data Reported: 1/30/2022

■ Low Transmission
 ■ Moderate Transmission
 ■ Substantial Transmission
■ High Transmission



	LOW TRANSMISSION	MODERATE TRANSMISSION	SUBSTANTIAL TRANSMISSION	HIGH TRANSMISSION
7-DAY TOTAL NEW CASES PER 100K	< 10	>= 10 & < 50	>= 50 & < 100	>= 100
TEST POSITIVITY AVERAGE	< 5%	>= 5% & < 8%	>= 8% & < 10%	>= 10%
# OF COUNTIES	0	0	0	102



We have the Tools to Fight Omicron

Vaccines

Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging.

- COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.
- Scientists are currently investigating Omicron, including how protected fully vaccinated people will be against infection, hospitalization, and death.
- CDC recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting [fully vaccinated](#).
- CDC recommends that everyone ages 16 years and older get a [booster](#) shot after completing their primary COVID-19 vaccination series. You are eligible for a booster at 5 months after completing Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, 6 months after completing Moderna primary series, and 2 months after the initial J&J/Janssen vaccine. Individuals ages 16-17 are only eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Masks

Masks offer protection against all variants.

- CDC continues to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high [community transmission](#), regardless of vaccination status.
- CDC provides [advice about masks](#) for people who want to learn more about what [type of mask](#) is right for them depending on their circumstances.

Testing

Tests can tell you if you are currently infected with COVID-19.

- Two types of tests are used to [test for current infection](#): nucleic acid amplification tests ([NAATs](#)) and [antigen tests](#). NAAT and antigen tests can only tell you if you have a current infection.
- Individuals can use the [COVID-19 Viral Testing Tool](#) to help determine what kind of test to seek.
 - Additional tests would be needed to determine if your infection was caused by Omicron.
 - Visit your [state](#), [tribal](#), local, or [territorial](#) health department's website to look for the latest local information on testing.
- [Self-tests](#) can be used at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce rapid results.
 - If your self-test has a positive result, stay home or isolate for 10 days, wear a mask if you have contact with others, and call your healthcare provider.
 - If you have any questions about your self-test result, call your healthcare provider or public health department.

Until we know more about the risk of Omicron, it is important to use **all tools available** to [protect yourself and others](#).





Garrett has decided to require that all students, faculty, and staff receive a COVID-19 booster as soon as possible and no later than March 1, 2022. This deadline is six months from when most faculty, students, and staff were fully vaccinated, making them eligible for their boosters within this window. Boosters are intended to provide added protection against COVID-19 as the initial vaccines' effectiveness can wane over time.

Individuals are eligible to receive their boosters six months after completing the initial series of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) and two months after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Individuals who had a breakthrough infection prior to receiving their booster must receive their booster as soon as they become medically eligible for it.

If you are a student who is not yet eligible for your booster either due to a breakthrough infection or due to the timing of receiving your last vaccine by the March 1st deadline, please contact the Office of Student Life to receive the appropriate temporary extensions.

Exemption for Medical or Religious reasons

- A religious exemption will be granted to a student who completes the request form and provides a signed letter from an official leader within their religious organization that supports the community's belief that their religious beliefs, practices, or observances prevent any member of the congregation from receiving a COVID-19 Booster vaccination
- A medical exemption may be granted to anyone who has a diagnosed medical condition that prevents them from receiving the booster shot or who has an allergy to the components of the vaccine.
 - The exemption will only be granted upon receipt of a certified documentation by a licensed health care provider who is not related to the submitter, and whose specialty is appropriate to the associated condition.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - www.cdc.gov
- Illinois Department of Public Health
 - www.dph.illinois.gov
- Garrett.edu
 - <https://www.garrett.edu/about-us/coronavirus-covid-19-updates>
- myGETS
 - Homepage includes links to Campus Safety Updates and Community Resources and Updates
- Campus Safety
 - campussafety@garrett.edu

You are here: [Campus Safety](#) > [Campus Safety](#)

Campus Safety

- Campus Safety
- Campus Safety Policies and Procedures
- Garrett Alerts Notification System
- Northwestern Alerts Notification System
- Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports
- COVID-19

Quick Links

- My Pages
- Garrett.edu
- Styberg Library
- Master Calendars
- Learning Management System (Moodle)

Campus Safety

Emergency Contacts

At Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, your safety and security are of utmost importance. If a campus safety or security issue arises please contact:

Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Karen Mosby
Dean of Student Life and Chaplain
847-866-3936

After hours or on weekends:

Evanston Police Non-Emergency
847.866.5000

For issues related to buildings and grounds contact:

Josten Berczy
Director of Buildings and Grounds
847.691.4290

IN THE CASE OF IMMEDIATE THREAT TO YOUR SAFETY OR SECURITY PLEASE CALL 911.

You can also access the Seminary's [Emergency Phone List](#) for contacts and additional instructions.

Quick Links

[Garrett Alerts Notification System](#)

[Northwestern Alerts Notification System](#)

[Campus Safety Policies and Procedures](#)

[Sexual Misconduct Title IX Policy](#)

[COVID-19 \(Employees\)](#)

[Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports](#)

List and Forms



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The highest priority is the safety of those who live, study, and work within the Garrett community.

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