

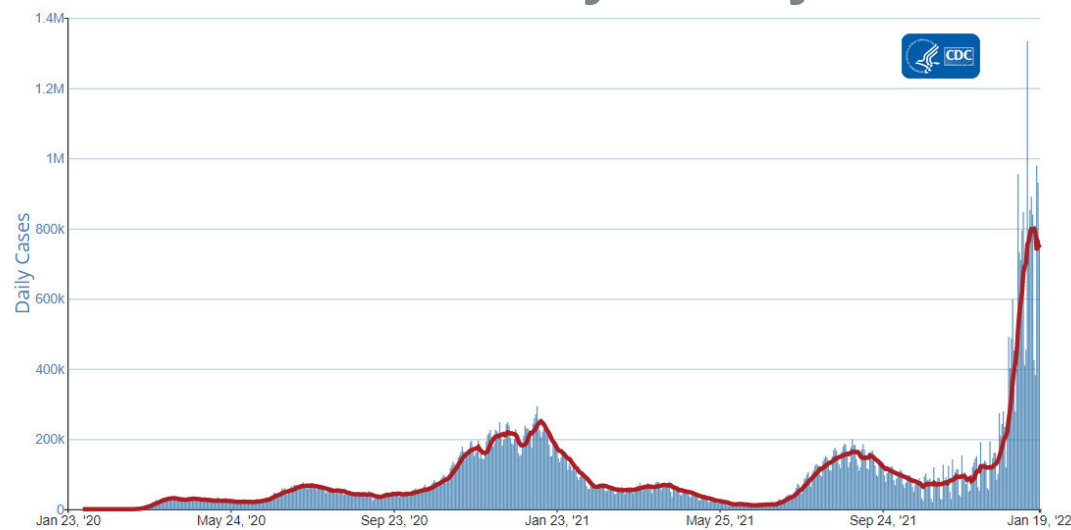
# COVID-19 and the "Flattened" Curve

The statistics, variants and Loudoun's response

As the effort to "flatten the curve" rages on, this January saw the line beam straight... up. With higher rates of infections than anything in the past year, communities are scrambling to stay safe. As Loudoun itself experiences a surge in cases, we'll take a look at what to watch out for in case of exposure, and how our government is proceeding.

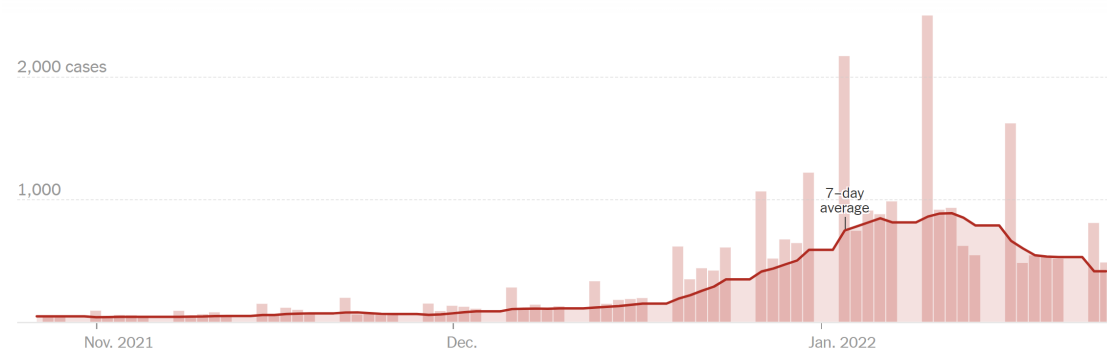
## Show Me The Numbers

U.S. COVID-19 Cases Jan. '20 - Jan. '22



Less than two weeks after some of the most travel-heavy times of the year, Jan. 10 saw over one million COVID cases reported to the CDC, setting a new record in the U.S.

Loudoun County COVID-19 Cases Nov. '21 - Jan. '22



Meanwhile, Loudoun County itself had over 2,000 cases reported in the same day.

## About Omicron

Omicron has proven to be one of the most transmissible COVID Variants, in some cases even more so than Delta. Despite many cases occurring, those who are vaccinated face a lower risk of severe illness, hospitalization or death.

## About Delta

While Omicron has the potential to be more transmissible, Delta possesses the combination of both contagiousness and more severe cases. Those who are unvaccinated are at a higher risk for severe infection, hospitalization or death. Vaccinated individuals, however, may still become ill or transfer the virus.

## Symptoms To Look Out For:

- Sore throat
- Fever
- Congestion
- Muscle aches
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Digestive issues

## How Is Loudoun County Reacting?

Currently, Loudoun advises people to attempt to limit in-person activities, and to opt for online options. Those entering county facilities must abide by a mask mandate to reduce transmission, regardless of their vaccination status.

Throughout the county, students are required to wear masks both on campus and while on buses. People who are deemed close contacts are instructed to quarantine for five days, and are permitted to return in-person wearing a mask for days six through ten, or staying home.

## Sources

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