



COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

February 2, 2022

CLINICAL PEARL

- The authors of a [recent pre-print, non-peer reviewed study](#) analyzed clinical and epidemiologic data from cases testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection within the Kaiser Permanente Southern California healthcare system from November 30, 2021 to January 1, 2022, using S gene target failure (SGTF) as assessed by the ThermoFisher TaqPath ComboKit assay as a proxy for Omicron infection. Their analyses included 52,297 cases with SGTF (Omicron) and 16,982 cases with non-SGTF (Delta [B.1.617.2]) infections. **Hospital admissions occurred among 235 (0.5%) and 222 (1.3%) of cases with Omicron and Delta variant infections, respectively.** Among cases first tested in outpatient settings, the adjusted hazard ratios for any subsequent hospital admission and symptomatic hospital admission associated with Omicron variant infection were 0.48 (0.36-0.64) and 0.47 (0.35-0.62), respectively. Rates of ICU admission and mortality after an outpatient positive test were 0.26 (0.10-0.73) and 0.09 (0.01-0.75) fold as high among cases with Omicron variant infection as compared to cases with Delta variant infection. **Zero cases with Omicron variant infection received mechanical ventilation, as compared to 11 cases with Delta variant infections throughout the period of follow-up. Median duration of hospital stay was 3.4 (2.8-4.1) days shorter for hospitalized cases with Omicron variant infections as compared to hospitalized patients with Delta variant infections, reflecting a 69.6% (64.0-74.5%) reduction in hospital length of stay.**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- [FDA Limits Use of Certain Monoclonal Antibodies to Treat COVID-19 Due to the Omicron Variant](#)
- NIH [The COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Statement on Therapies for High-Risk, Nonhospitalized Patients With Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#)
- WHO
 - [SAGE Roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [COVAX delivers its 1 billionth COVID-19 vaccine dose](#)
 - [Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 25 January 2022](#)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
 - [Assessment of the further spread and potential impact of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant of concern in the EU/EEA, 19th update](#)
 - [Interim analysis of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness against Severe Acute Respiratory Infection due to laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 among individuals aged 50 years and older, ECDC multi-country study – first update](#)
 - [Weekly epidemiological update: Omicron variant of concern \(VOC\) – week 2 \(data as of 20 January 2022\) EU/EEA](#)
- Government of UK
 - [Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 designated as a variant under investigation \(VUI\)](#)
 - [COVID-19 vaccine surveillance report week4](#)

GUIDANCE/GUIDELINES

- CDPH [Distribution and Ordering of Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Therapeutics](#)
- WHO [Interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

RESOURCES

- CDC/IDSA COVID-19 Clinician Call [Outpatient COVID-19 Treatment Strategies for High-Risk Populations](#)
- HHS
 - [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)
 - [Hospital Utilization Dashboard](#)
- CDPH
 - [Fact Sheets: COVID-19 Therapeutics Allocated by CDPH](#)
 - [Questions and Answers: Treatment Information for Providers and Facilities](#)
- IDSA
 - Podcasts: [Mental Health Stress and Burnout In Health Care Workers](#)
 - Media Briefing:
 - [The Latest on Long COVID](#)
 - [COVID-19 & Omicron - Practical Advice](#)
- Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) Osterholm Update:
 - [Episode 87: Hope Is Not a Strategy](#)
 - [Episode 88: Vaccines, Variants, and Long COVID](#)
- CDC [National Wastewater Surveillance System \(NWSS\)](#)
- Biobot Analytics [Nationwide Wastewater Monitoring Network](#)
- Stanford Department of Medicine Grand Rounds [Long COVID: An Update and the Stanford PACS Clinic](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation
 - [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination of 5-11 Year Olds in the U.S.](#)
 - [KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: January 2022](#)
 - [The Red/Blue Divide in COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Continues: An Update](#)

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH PAPERS

- *New England Journal of Medicine*
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant Neutralization after mRNA-1273 Booster Vaccination](#)
 - [Effects of a Prolonged Booster Interval on Neutralization of Omicron Variant](#)
 - [Homologous and Heterologous Covid-19 Booster Vaccinations](#)
 - [Lung Transplantation for Covid-19–Related Respiratory Failure in the United States](#)
- *medRxiv*
 - [Association between vaccination status and reported incidence of post-acute COVID-19 symptoms in Israel: a cross-sectional study of patients tested between March 2020 and November 2021](#)
 - [Discordant SARS-CoV-2 PCR and Rapid Antigen Test Results When Infectious: A December 2021 Occupational Case Series](#)
 - [Direct Comparison of SARS-CoV-2 Nasal RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Test \(BinaxNOW™\) at a Community Testing Site During an Omicron Surge](#)
- *JAMA*
 - [Association Between 3 Doses of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine and Symptomatic Infection Caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron and Delta Variants](#)
 - [Booster Vaccination to Prevent COVID-19 in the Era of Omicron - An Effective Part of a Layered Public Health Approach](#)
 - [Comparison of mRNA-1273 and BNT162b2 Vaccines on Breakthrough SARS-CoV-2 Infections, Hospitalizations, and Death During the Delta-Predominant Period](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

- [Myocarditis Cases Reported After mRNA-Based COVID-19 Vaccination in the US From December 2020 to August 2021](#)
- [Effect of P2Y12 Inhibitors on Survival Free of Organ Support Among Non–Critically Ill Hospitalized Patients With COVID-19 - A Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
- [Assessment of Clinical Outcomes Among Children and Adolescents Hospitalized With COVID-19 in 6 Sub-Saharan African Countries](#)
- [Frequency of Adverse Events in the Placebo Arms of COVID-19 Vaccine Trials - A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis](#)
- [Clinical Outcomes Among Patients With 1-Year Survival Following Intensive Care Unit Treatment for COVID-19](#)
- [Trends in Psychological Distress Among US Adults During Different Phases of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [False-Positive Results in Rapid Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [Incidence of New-Onset Type 1 Diabetes Among US Children During the COVID-19 Global Pandemic](#)
- [Changes in COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Black and White Individuals in the US](#)
- [Association of Major Depressive Symptoms With Endorsement of COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation Among US Adults](#)
- [Physician Health Care Visits for Mental Health and Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Ontario, Canada](#)
- [Immunogenicity and Safety of a Third SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Dose in Patients With Multiple Sclerosis and Weak Immune Response After COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Association of Convalescent Plasma Treatment With Clinical Status in Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19 - A Meta-analysis](#)
- *Emerging Infectious Diseases*
 - [Effectiveness of mRNA BNT162b2 Vaccine 6 Months after Vaccination among Patients in Large Health Maintenance Organization, Israel](#)
 - [Comparative Effectiveness of Coronavirus Vaccine in Preventing Breakthrough Infections among Vaccinated Persons Infected with Delta and Alpha Variants](#)
 - [Comparison of Complications after Coronavirus Disease and Seasonal Influenza, South Korea](#)
 - [Serial Interval and Transmission Dynamics during SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant Predominance, South Korea](#)
 - [High-Dose Convalescent Plasma for Treatment of Severe COVID-19](#)
 - [Postvaccination Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adult with No Evidence of Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Cross-Reactivity in Prepandemic Serum from Rural Malaria-Infected Persons, Cambodia](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.619 and B.1.620 Lineages, South Korea, 2021](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence before Delta Variant Surge, Chattogram, Bangladesh, March–June 2021](#)
 - [Surveillance of Rodent Pests for SARS-CoV-2 and Other Coronaviruses, Hong Kong](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Circulation, Guinea, March 2020–July 2021](#)
 - [Probable Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant in Quarantine Hotel, Hong Kong, China, November 2021](#)
 - [Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Adults, Arkhangelsk, Russia](#)
 - [Predictors of Nonseroconversion after SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)
 - [Return of Norovirus and Rotavirus Activity in Winter 2020–21 in City with Strict COVID-19 Control Strategy, Hong Kong, China](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

- *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*
 - [Sustained Reduction in Urgent Care Antibiotic Prescribing During the COVID-19 pandemic: An Academic Medical Center's Experience](#)
- *The Lancet*
 - [Three-dose vaccination elicits neutralising antibodies against omicron](#)
 - [Early assessment of the clinical severity of the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant in South Africa: a data linkage study](#)
- *BMJ*
 - [Diagnostic accuracy of rapid point-of-care tests for diagnosis of current SARS-CoV-2 infections in children: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
- *PLOS*
 - [Knowledge barriers in a national symptomatic-COVID-19 testing programme](#)
 - [Overall and cause-specific hospitalisation and death after COVID-19 hospitalisation in England: A cohort study using linked primary care, secondary care, and death registration data in the OpenSAFELY platform](#)
- *Nature*
 - [The UGT2A1/UGT2A2 locus is associated with COVID-19-related loss of smell or taste](#)
 - [No infectious SARS-CoV-2 in breast milk from a cohort of 110 lactating women](#)
 - [COVID-19: endemic doesn't mean harmless](#)
- *Science*
 - [Neutralization of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron by BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine-elicited human sera](#)
 - [Vaccination with BNT162b2 reduces transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to household contacts in Israel](#)
 - [Indirect protection of children from SARS-CoV-2 infection through parental vaccination](#)
- *Cell*
 - [SARS-CoV-2 breakthrough infections elicit potent, broad and durable neutralizing antibody responses](#)
 - [Multiple Early Factors Anticipate Post-Acute COVID-19 Sequelae](#)
- *Eurosurveillance*
 - [Reduced risk of hospitalisation among reported COVID-19 cases infected with the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 variant compared with the Delta variant, Norway, December 2021 to January 2022](#)
 - [Increased risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 compared with Delta in vaccinated and previously infected individuals, the Netherlands, 22 November 2021 to 19 January 2022](#)
- *European Respiratory Journal*
 - [Pulse oximeters' measurements vary across ethnic groups: An observational study in patients with Covid-19 infection](#)
- *Canadian Medical Association Journal*
 - [Remdesivir for the treatment of patients in hospital with COVID-19 in Canada: a randomized controlled trial](#)
- *Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases*
 - [Active epidemiological investigation on SARS-CoV-2 infection caused by Omicron variant \(Pango lineage B.1.1.529\) in Japan: preliminary report on infectious period](#)
- *Annals of Internal Medicine*
 - [Antibody Response to a Fourth Messenger RNA COVID-19 Vaccine Dose in Kidney Transplant Recipients: A Case Series](#)
- *Blood Advances*
 - [CD19-positive lymphocyte count is critical for acquisition of anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG after vaccination in B-cell lymphoma](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

- *American Journal of Epidemiology*
 - [A prospective cohort study of COVID-19 vaccination, SARS-CoV-2 infection, and fertility](#)
- *Journal of the American Heart Association*
 - [Longitudinal Assessment of Cardiac Outcomes of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children Associated With COVID-19 Infections](#)
- *Clinical and Experimental Immunology*
 - [SARS-CoV-2 vaccine responses following CD20-depletion treatment in patients with haematological and rheumatological disease: a West Midlands Research Consortium study](#)
- *Journal of Natural Products*
 - [Cannabinoids Block Cellular Entry of SARS-CoV-2 and the Emerging Variants](#)
- *US Government Accountability Office*
 - [COVID-19: Significant Improvements Are Needed for Overseeing Relief Funds and Leading Responses to Public Health Emergencies](#)

MMWR

- [Effectiveness of a Third Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing COVID-19 Hospitalization Among Immunocompetent and Immunocompromised Adults — United States, August–December 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of a Third Dose of mRNA Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Predominance — VISION Network, 10 States, August 2021–](#)
- [Trends in Disease Severity and Health Care Utilization During the Early Omicron Variant Period Compared with Previous SARS-CoV-2 High Transmission Periods — United States, December 2020–January 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Incidence and Death Rates Among Unvaccinated and Fully Vaccinated Adults with and Without Booster Doses During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Emergence — 25 U.S. Jurisdictions, April 4–December 25, 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Early Evidence of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant in Community Wastewater — United States, November–December 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Previous COVID-19 Diagnosis — California and New York, May–November 2021](#)
- [Use of the Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\) COVID-19 Vaccine: Updated Interim Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, December 2021](#)

HOT OFF THE (LAY) PRESS

- *New York Times*
 - [‘Stealth’ variant no cause for alarm, but could slow case decline](#)
 - [The F.D.A. grants Moderna’s vaccine full approval.](#)
 - [As COVID shots for kids stall, appeals are aimed at weary parents](#)
 - [Yes, omicron is loosening its hold. But the pandemic has not ended](#)
 - [A new poll asks: Why do some vaccinated people not get boosters](#)
 - [As New York reports glimmers of hope, states in the West are under pressure](#)
 - [Omicron’s spread could lead to ‘stabilization and normalization,’ a top W.H.O. official](#) says
 - [Covid Hospitalization Plateau In Some Parts of the U.S., While A Crisis Remains In Others](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

- [Pfizer and Moderna booster shots were extremely effective in preventing those infected with Omicron from being hospitalized, C.D.C. data shows.](#)
- [The Biden administration is preparing to give away 400 million N95 masks at health centers and pharmacies across the U.S.](#)
- [Biden administration to issue 400 million masks from national stockpile](#)
- [The Biden administration will give away masks in the 'largest deployment' of such equipment in U.S. history](#)
- *CNN*
 - [FDA considers limiting authorization of certain monoclonal antibody treatments](#)
- *The Wall Street Journal*
 - [Omicron Leaves Nurses Stretched Thin and Seeking Help From Burnout](#)
- *The Washington Post*
 - [U.S. coronavirus hospitalizations slow, with the Northeast showing a steep decline](#)
 - [There's a new version of omicron but so far it doesn't appear to be more dangerous](#)
 - [U.S. tops highest seven-day death average since last year](#)
 - [Preventing the next pandemic requires a health overhaul](#)
- *The Hill*
 - [Biden administration limits use of two monoclonal antibody treatments](#)
- *Reuters*
 - [Is COVID retreating in the U.S.? Data paints encouraging scenario](#)
 - [Austria set to make COVID shots compulsory after bill clears parliament](#)
 - [EU told to prepare for fourth COVID vaccine doses, if needed](#)
- *Kaiser Health News*
 - [Pharmacies Are Turning Away Immunocompromised Patients Seeking 4th Covid Shot](#)
 - [CDC Tells Pharmacies to Give 4th Covid Shots to Immunocompromised Patients](#)
- *The New Yorker*
 - [Even as Omicron Wanes, New York City's Teachers Are in a Holding Pattern](#)
- *AP News*
 - [COVID-19 vaccine booster drive is faltering in the US](#)
- *CBS News*
 - [Lawmakers call for investigation into reports of at-home COVID test price gouging](#)
- *USA Today*
 - [America's pandemic worries are higher now than before vaccines were widely available, poll finds](#)
- *NPR*
 - [Pfizer and BioNTech begin testing an omicron-specific COVID-19 vaccine](#)
 - [12 Surprising Ways People are Finding Joy in the Pandemic](#)
 - [Los Angeles school district tells students to upgrade from cloth masks](#)
 - ['Risk No Matter Where I Go': For Many Disabled People, A Future of Ever-Present COVID Is Daunting](#)
 - [Community COVID Clinics Fill Crucial Need in Underserved Communities — But Are Strapped for Resources](#)
- *Politico*
 - [How many health care workers are vaccinated? It's anyone's guess.](#)
- *The Atlantic*
 - [Will Omicron Leave Most of Us Immune?](#)
 - [The Worst of the Omicron Wave Could Still Be Coming](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

- *Foreign Affairs*
 - [The Pandemic of Unknowns - Reaching a New Normal in an Age of Uncertainty](#)
- *Vox News*
 - [Why Covid-19 is always one step ahead of the US response](#)
 - [The parents of the youngest children are not okay](#)
- *Popular Science*
 - [Inside the lab using bones to study COVID and hearing loss](#)
 - [Why healthy, vaccinated people should still care about Omicron](#)
 - [Some people still can't smell or taste a year after COVID](#)
- *CEPI News*
 - [CEPI and Institut Pasteur de Dakar partner to advance COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing in Africa](#)
- *Pfizer Press Releases*
 - [Pfizer and BioNTech Initiate Study to Evaluate Omicron-Based COVID-19 Vaccine in Adults 18 to 55 Years of Age](#)
- *Moderna Press Releases*
 - [MODERNA ANNOUNCES FIRST PARTICIPANT DOSED IN PHASE 2 STUDY OF OMICRON-SPECIFIC BOOSTER CANDIDATE AND PUBLICATION OF DATA ON BOOSTER DURABILITY AGAINST OMICRON VARIANT](#)
- *UNICEF*
 - [COVID:19 Scale of education loss 'nearly insurmountable', warns UNICEF](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*
 - ['Just wear a mask and don't tell anyone': workplaces are filling up with sick employees](#)
 - [San Francisco mask, vaccination proof rules as omicron recedes](#)
 - [Coronavirus transmission rates are falling across California, bringing guarded optimism](#)
 - [Omicron leaves testing labs overwhelmed, causing frustrating delays to get results](#)
- *San Francisco Chronicle*
 - [Why it's suddenly easier to get a COVID test in the Bay Area](#)
 - [Bay Area officials begin to plot when to ease mask mandates and other COVID restrictions as cases slow](#)
 - [Here's where in the Bay Area omicron is still surging](#)
 - [COVID cases may have peaked, but hospitals still face a torrent of patients](#)
 - [COVID in California: Santa Clara County is giving away at-home test kits](#)
 - [Number of S.F. hospital patients with COVID nears all-time high](#)

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States – new data!](#)
- [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 in the USA](#) – daily summary of key data on COVID-19 in the U.S.
- **American Academy of Pediatrics** [Children and COVID-19: State Level Data Report](#)
- **California COVID-19 by the numbers** are available on the [CDPH Website](#) and the [NYT Map and Table](#) (includes data by county)
 - **California [COVID-19 Statewide Update](#) as of February 2, 2022**
- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)





COVID-19 Digest Issue 71

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Clinicians and Facilities – COVID-19 Digests](#)
- [Covid-WEB \(Wastewater Epidemiology for the Bay Area\)](#)
- [Palo Alto Online tracking the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties](#)
- [California COVID-19 Data and Tools](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Assessment and Modeling Tool](#)
- [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations Population COVID-19 Tracking Dashboards](#)
- [CDC Interactive Serology Dashboard for Commercial Laboratory Surveys](#)
- [HHS Coronavirus Data Hub](#)
- [COVID-19 Nursing Home Data](#)

