

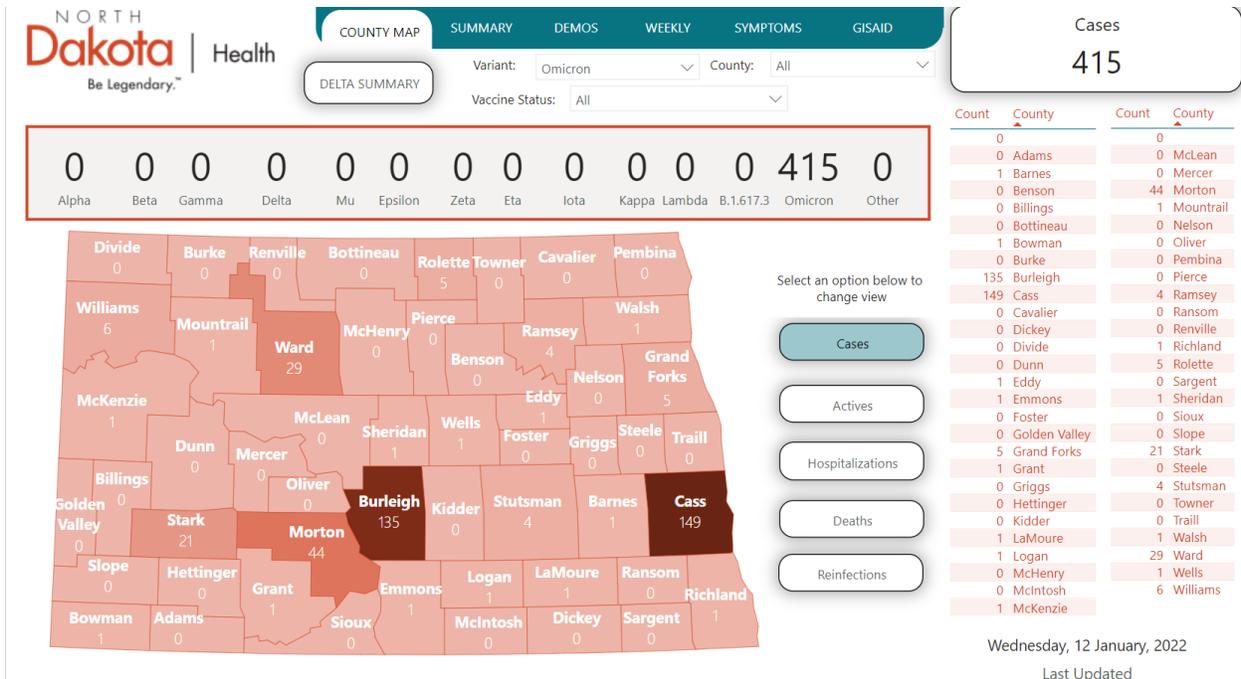
Omicron (B.1.1.529) Variant Update for North Dakota

This health update provides situational awareness regarding the emergence of the Omicron variant in North Dakota. On January 9, 2022, the North Dakota Department of Health's Laboratory Services Section reported results from its latest round of whole genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 positive specimens. Of 274 resident PCR positive specimens collected the week of January 2, 2022, 205 (76%) were confirmed as the Omicron variant. The map, below, shows the cumulative geographic distribution based on county of residence. Wastewater testing is showing that the Omicron variant is present in high proportions in most systems submitting samples.

It is likely that the overall proportion of Omicron in North Dakota has exceeded 80%. The Department of Health and Human Services has identified this 80% threshold where providers should consider using only Sotrovimab for the outpatient treatment of COVID-19. The North Dakota Department of Health encourages providers to use their clinical judgment when treating patients with COVID-19. The NIH offers guidance for [prioritizing the treatment of](#) patients during therapeutics supply constraints. Further information on care and therapeutics is available from the [CDC](#) and the [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#). Attached with this HAN is a flow chart made available through [HHS](#) that provides further guidance to providers regarding prioritizing limited supplies of therapeutics.

Sotrovimab remains the only monoclonal antibody therapy to show effectiveness against Omicron. Evusheld can be used for pre-exposure prophylaxis. Paxlovid and Molnupiravir remain as antiviral options for treatment of mild to moderate disease. Supplies of Sotrovimab, Paxlovid and Molnupiravir remain limited.

For questions regarding Omicron surveillance, providers can call Disease Control at 701-328-2378. Questions regarding SARS-CoV-2 laboratory testing, including variant testing can be directed to Laboratory Services at 701-328-6272 and questions regarding the availability of monoclonal antibodies and antivirals can be directed to the Department Operations Center at 701-328-0707.



###

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

###This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations###