

**COVID-19**

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

*COVID Update*

December 15, 2021

**Manitoba**



## Omicron Variant

### **New Variant of Concern (VOC)**

- November 24, 2021: Reported to World Health Organization by South Africa
- First known confirmed Omicron infection from specimen on November 9, 2021

### **In Canada, as of December 9, 2021:**

- Reported in 7 Provinces/Territories

**There is a growing body of knowledge including early reports and ongoing studies to help us understand the impact of this variant on:**

- transmission
- severity
- vaccine effectiveness

## Growing Body of Knowledge on Omicron

A December 9 Risk Assessment by the UK Health Security Agency indicates that Omicron displays:

- A growth advantage over Delta
  - Insufficient data to assess severity
  - A reduction in immune protection against infection
- Based on neutralisation data from multiple laboratories and preliminary assessment of real world vaccine effectiveness in the UK.

Insufficient data to make any assessment of protection against severe disease.

Source: December 9 2021 Risk assessment for SARS-CoV-2 variant: Omicron VOC-21NOV-01 (B.1.1.529) UK Health Security Agency

## Growing Body of Knowledge on Omicron

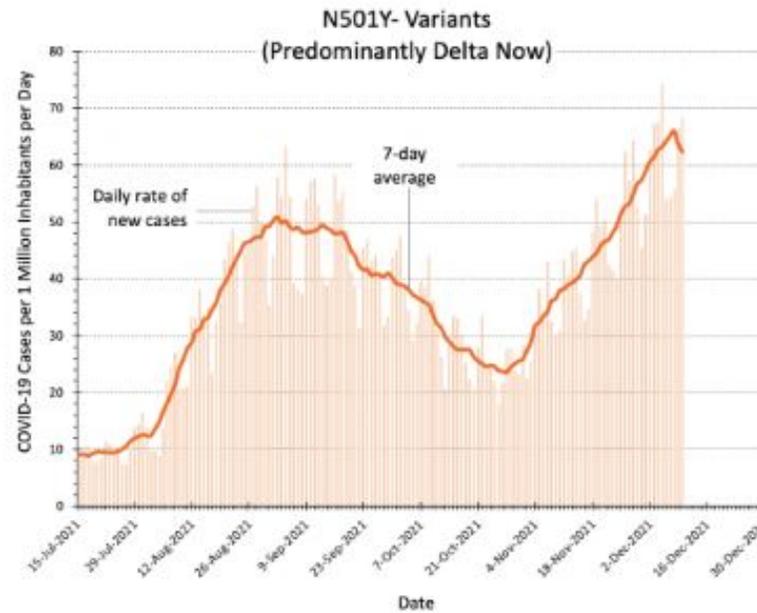
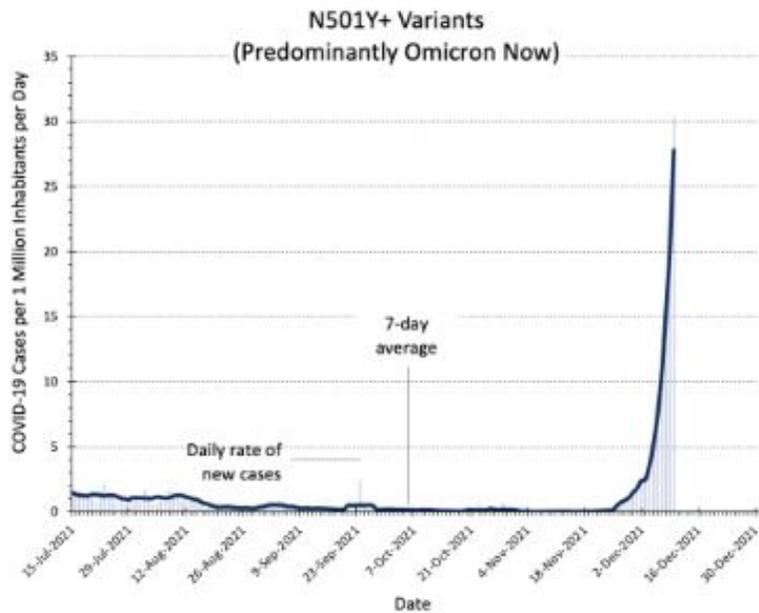
### **UK Health Security Agency Technical Briefing (December 10, 2021):**

- Omicron growth rate: 35%/day
- Omicron doubling rate: 2.5 days

### **Ontario Science Table Dashboard (Dec. 14, 2021):**

- 30.8% of cases in Ontario are now Omicron and this is rapidly increasing.
- Doubling time:
  - Omicron: 3 days
  - In comparison, Delta: 34 days
- Effective Reproduction Number  $R(t)$  on Dec. 7, 2021:
  - Omicron: 4.01%
  - In comparison, Delta: 1.09%

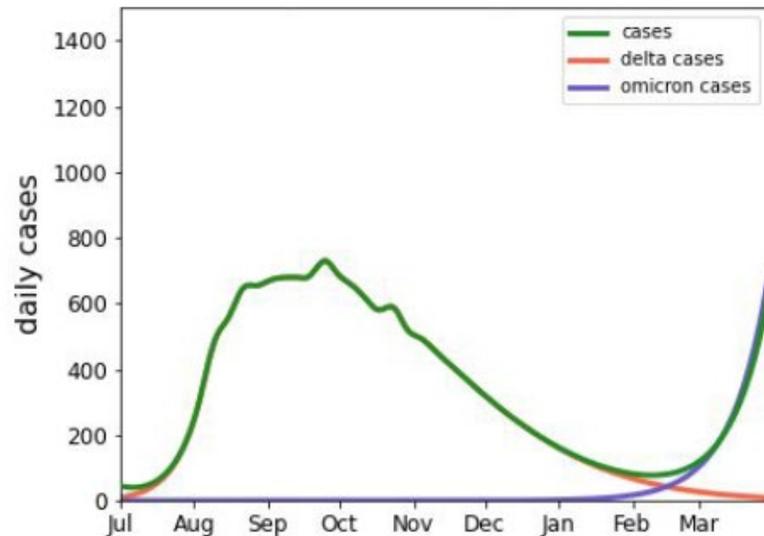
## Omicron in Ontario: Exponential Growth



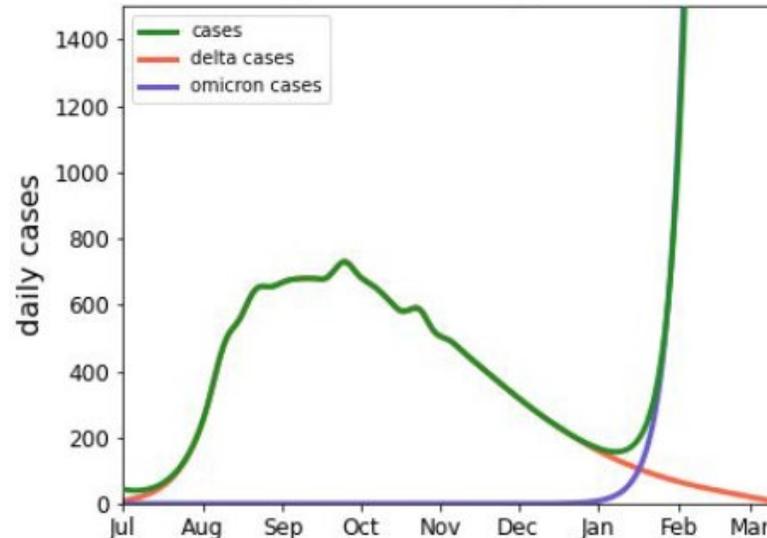
Rates (COVID-19 Cases per 1 million Inhabitants.)  
Delta still makes up the majority of cases, but Omicron is growing exponentially.

## Omicron Preliminary Modelling from BC COVID Modelling Group

7% (linear scale)



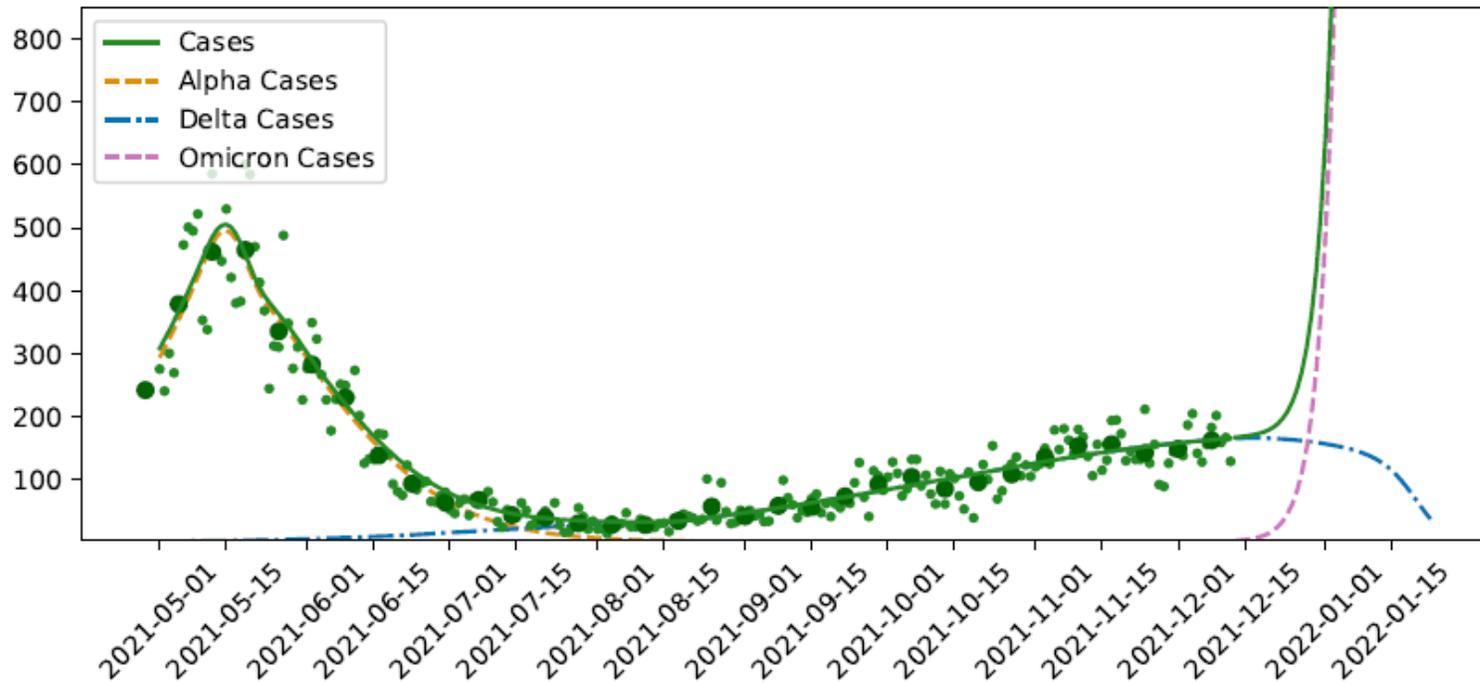
17% (linear scale)



Modelling results based on now dated assumption that daily growth rate for Omicron will be between 7% and 17% per day in BC. **This is likely an under-estimation with evidence pointing to a 35% daily growth rate in the UK.**

17% growth rate scenario gives government very limited time to react.  
Data Source: BC COVID Modelling Group

## Preliminary Modelling: Manitoba



Rate of hospitalizations from Omicron not yet known.

Even a very small proportion of cases requiring hospitalization could stress capacity.

Manitoba projections under a transmission scenario similar to what's observed in Ontario and the UK (35% growth rate).

- **223 cases/day on Dec 25**
- **Over 1,000 early in the new year**

## Omicron in Manitoba

### **To date: 6 confirmed cases**

2 travel related

4 close contacts of a known case

### **Vaccination/Symptoms:**

2 fully immunized – both asymptomatic

4 unimmunized- one was symptomatic and the other 3 asymptomatic

Delta is still the predominant strain in Manitoba – but based on what has been observed in other jurisdictions, we expect to see a rapid increase in Omicron.

The background is a solid blue color with several stylized, dark blue icons of COVID-19 viruses scattered across it. Each virus icon is a circle with several short, thick spikes protruding from its surface.

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