

Mom-friends take different paths in providing for kids



DEAR ABBY
ADVICE

for her birthday, Christmas, etc., Ashley buys the same thing for Mimi. I got my daughter into ice skating three years ago. Ashley then proceeded to buy her daughter professional ice skates, accessories, skating costumes, private lessons and entered her in skate club, shows and competitions.

Needless to say, my daughter is sometimes jealous of all the things Mimi gets. For me, it's not about the money. It's the principle that I'm not going to spoil my daughter like that. I remind my daughter she's still more fortunate than a lot of other children and she should appreciate what she has.

Should I cut ties with Ashley? Should I mention my concerns to her? Or are my daughter and I overreacting? — **DOING WELL ENOUGH**

DEAR DOING WELL: I don't think you or your daughter are overreacting. In life, you — and she — will always encounter people who have more material things than you. (The reverse may also be true.) Because this is happening regularly, I can see why your daughter feels as she does.

If it happened occasionally, I might respond differently, but you wrote that this is a frequent occurrence. A conversation with Ashley is in order. If your relationship survives the conversation, con-

sider socializing with her but doing your gift-buying privately.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I have never had the best relationship. It has only gotten worse since my dad passed in 2020, followed by my brother, who passed in 2021. My uncle, Mom's younger brother, also passed in 2021. My problem is that Mom acts like I have no right to grieve. This is all her grief and HER pain — she has actually told me as much. She has said, more than once, that she doesn't know why I bother to get so upset.

I'm seeing a counselor, but I'm having a hard time forgiving her behavior. I lost my father and my brother! Worse,

she tells her friends I don't care about these losses. Please advise. — **GRIEVING AND HEARTBROKEN**

DEAR GRIEVING: Continue talking with your counselor not only about your deep sense of grief over the loss of your dad and your brother, but also about your relationship with your mother. Not knowing her, I cannot decide whether she is deep into her own grief or simply so deep into herself that she can't relate to you. I am sorry you didn't mention your age or whether you live with her, but it's important that you work on becoming, at the very least, emotionally independent from her.

As 'stealth omicron' advances, scientists are learning more

By **LAURA UNGAR**
The Associated Press

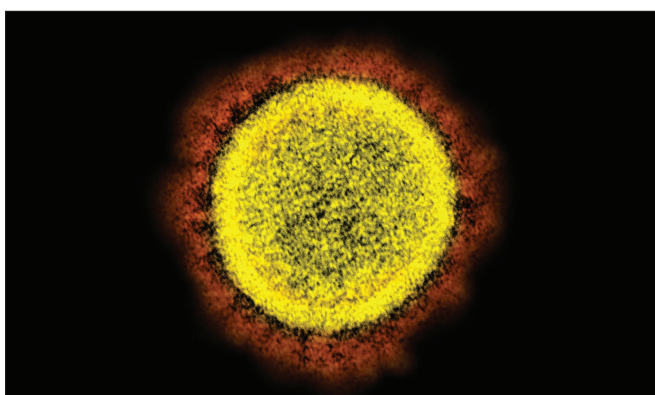
HOUSTON — The coronavirus mutant widely known as "stealth omicron" is now causing more than a third of new omicron cases around the world, but scientists still don't know how it could affect the future of the pandemic.

Researchers are slowly revealing clues about the strain, a descendant of omicron known as BA.2, while warily watching it become ever more prevalent.

"We're all keeping an eye on BA.2 just because it has done particularly well in some parts of the world," including parts of Asia, Africa and Europe, said Dr. Wesley Long, a pathologist at Houston Methodist in Texas.

This week, a technical advisory group for the World Health Organization advised public health authorities to monitor it as a distinct omicron strain.

Early research suggests it spreads faster than the original omicron and in rare cases can sicken people even if they've



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/Contributed Photo, File **This 2020 electron microscope image made available by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shows a Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 particle isolated from a patient, in a laboratory in Fort Detrick, Md. The coronavirus mutant widely known as stealth omicron is now causing more than a third of new omicron cases around the world. But scientists still don't know how it could affect the future of the pandemic.**

already had an omicron infection. There's mixed research on whether it causes more severe disease, but vaccines appear just as effective against it.

Overall cases are falling in some places where the variant is becoming more prevalent, offering some hope that the latest troubling version of the virus won't send cases skyrocketing again as experts try to learn more.

Worldwide spread

BA.2 has been found in more than 80 countries and all 50 U.S. states.

In a recent report, the WHO said BA.2 was dominant in 18 countries and it represented about 36% of sequenced omicron cases submitted in the most recent week to a publicly available international database where scientists share coronavirus data. That's up from 19% two

weeks earlier.

In the United States, BA.2 caused about 4% of COVID cases during the week ending Feb. 19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The percentage was lower in some regions and higher in others — hitting about 7% in New England.

What's known

BA.2 has lots of mutations. It's been dubbed "stealth" because it lacks a genetic quirk of the original omicron that allowed health officials to rapidly differentiate it from delta using a certain PCR test. So while the test can detect a BA.2 infection, it looks like a delta infection.

Initial research suggests BA.2 is more transmissible than the original omicron — about 30% more contagious by one estimate.

But vaccines can protect people from getting sick. Scientists in the United Kingdom found that they provide the same level of protection from both types of omicron.

A bout with the original

omicron also seems to provide "strong protection" against reinfection with BA.2, according to early studies cited by the WHO.

But getting BA.2 after infection from the original omicron strain is possible, says new research out of Denmark. Study authors noted 187 total reinfections, including 47 with BA.2 occurring shortly after a bout the original strain, mostly in young, unvaccinated people with mild disease. They concluded that such reinfections do occur but are rare. Like other early studies on BA.2, this one has been posted online but not reviewed by independent scientists.

Does BA.2 make you sicker?

A Japanese lab study suggests that it could, based on experiments with hamsters. Researchers concluded that the risk for global health "is potentially higher" from BA.2 and proposed that it be given its own Greek letter — a designation for globally significant "variants of

concern." WHO's technical group said BA.2 should remain under the omicron umbrella.

Though the severity experiments were conducted in animals, the study is "not something to discount," said Dr. Eric Topol of Scripps Research Translational Institute. "We should keep an open mind and keep assessing this."

But scientists are finding something different when they look at people. An initial analysis in Denmark showed no differences in hospitalizations for BA.2 compared with the original omicron, which tends to generally cause milder disease than the delta variant. More recently, researchers in South Africa found much the same: a similar risk of hospitalization and severe disease with the original omicron variant and BA.2.

"We always have to interpret studies in animals with caution," Long said. "I place more weight in studies of actual patients and what they're experiencing."

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A bit of late-night snow	A rain or snow shower	A few afternoon showers	Rain and drizzle	Cloudy with a shower
Baker City	16	32 19	36 27	40 30	44 28
Comfort Index™	0	0	0	2	1
La Grande	28	38 28	39 36	48 38	51 34
Comfort Index™	0	0	0	3	4
Enterprise	21	40 28	44 36	54 32	52 36
Comfort Index™	2	1	1	4	5

Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

ALMANAC

TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	27°	27°	26°
Low Thursday	9°	8°	9°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	0.01	0.03
Month to date	Trace	0.58	1.46
Normal month to date	0.51	1.05	2.01
Year to date	0.38	1.85	5.39
Normal year to date	1.21	2.72	5.28

THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)	
High: 89°	Fort Myers, Fla.
Low: -44°	Seagull Lake, Minn.
Wettest: 2.15"	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
OREGON	
High: 52°	Brookings
Low: 0°	Antelope
Wettest: 0.05"	Pendleton

AGRICULTURAL INFO.

HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY	
Lowest relative humidity	45%
Afternoon wind	S at 8 to 16 mph
Hours of sunshine	8.3
Evapotranspiration	0.07

RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)

Phillips Reservoir	3% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	33% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	23% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	42% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	26% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	50% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)

Grande Ronde at Troy	1440 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	1 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	7 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	171 cfs
Minam River at Minam	124 cfs
Powder River near Richland	43 cfs

WEATHER HISTORY

A dam in Buffalo Creek, W.Va., gave way on Feb. 26, 1972, after rain and melting snow increased the water level. It killed 125 people.

SUN & MOON

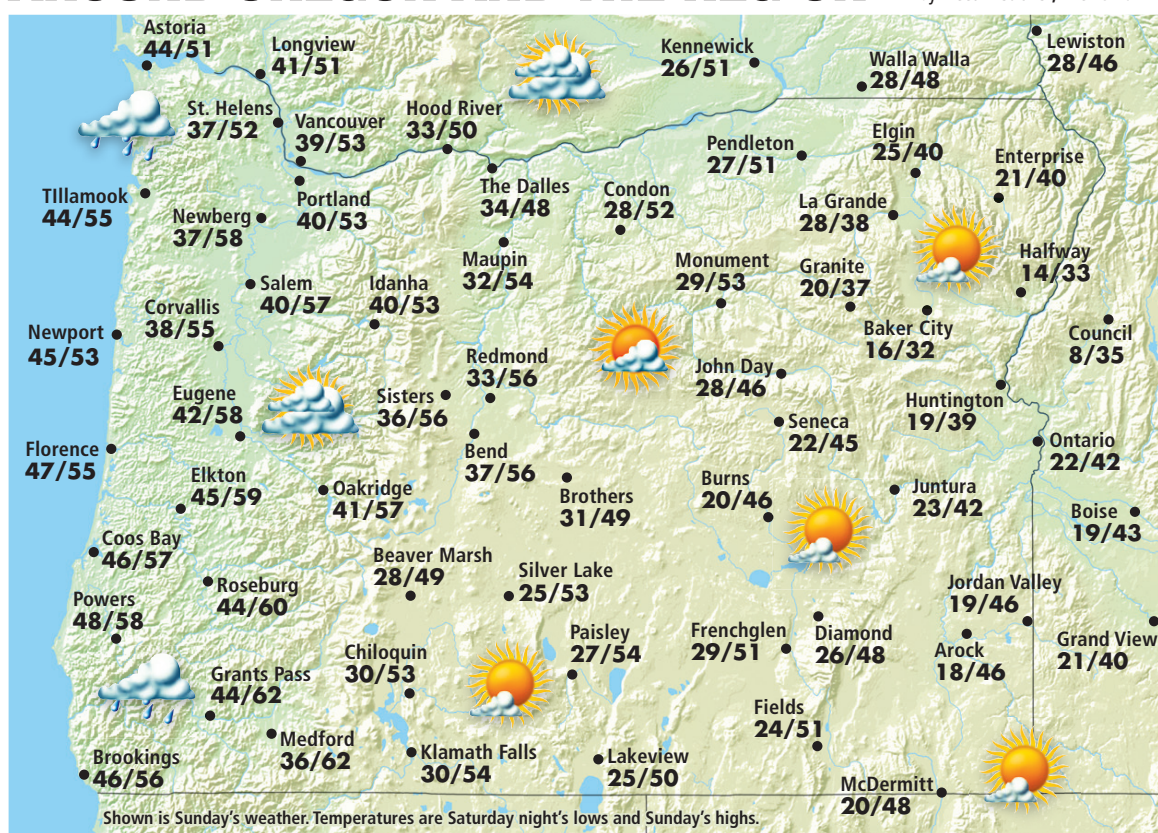
	SAT.	SUN.
Sunrise	6:36 a.m.	6:34 a.m.
Sunset	5:35 p.m.	5:36 p.m.
Moonrise	4:23 a.m.	5:17 a.m.
Moonset	12:41 p.m.	1:55 p.m.

MOON PHASES



AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

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REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN.		MON.	
	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W	Hi/Low/W
Astoria	51/47/r	52/45/r	Lewiston	46/36/sh
Bend	56/42/c	63/47/r	Longview	51/49/r
Boise	43/24/c	51/33/c	Meacham	39/26/c
Brookings	56/47/c	56/49/r	Medford	62/38/r
Burns	46/25/c	49/33/i	Newport	53/48/r
Coos Bay	57/48/r	56/49/r	Olympia	51/43/r
Corvallis	55/45/r	57/49/r	Ontario	42/25/c
Council	35/19/c	35/28/sn	Pasco	51/32/c
Elgin	40/25/c	41/39/sh	Pendleton	51/38/c
Eugene	58/49/r	59/49/r	Portland	53/48/r
Hermiston	51/33/i	55/45/sh	Powers	58/51/r
Hood River	50/38/sn	47/42/sh	Redmond	56/39/c
Imnaha	43/34/sf	46/42/sh	Roseburg	60/50/r
John Day	46/35/c	50/40/r	Salem	57/48/r
Joseph	39/29/c	43/36/sh	Spokane	38/33/sn
Kennewick	51/31/c	51/40/sh	The Dalles	48/37/sn
Klamath Falls	54/26/c	57/31/sh	Ukiah	46/32/c
Lakeview	50/28/c	55/35/c	Walla Walla	48/38/c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, F-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A little snow	24 19		PHILLIPS LAKE A little a.m. snow	36 19	
MT. EMILY REC. A snow shower	32 29		BROWNLEE RES. Cloudy and chilly	38 24	
EAGLE CAP WILD. A little snow	28 20		EMIGRANT ST. PARK Rain/snow shower	38 25	
WALLOWA LAKE Rain/snow shower	39 29		MCKAY RESERVOIR Warmer	52 39	
THIEF VALLEY RES. A snow shower	32 19		RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Rain/snow shower	38 28	

Veterans Appreciation Day

at Anthony Lakes

Complementary skiing for Veterans and their families

February 28, 2022

Details at AnthonyLakes.com

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"Working for Healthy Communities"
www.chdinc.org