

# THE CAPSULE

January 2022



## PHARMACY HIGHLIGHTS

- Avendi is now providing COVID-19 boosters

## NEW GENERICS

- Brinzolamide Opth. Susp. Brand Name: Azopt Opth.
- Difluprednate 0.05% Eye Drop
- Nebivolol Tablet Brand Name: Bystoic
- Apo-Varenicline Oral 0.5mg & 1mg (not starter pk or continue pk)

## BACKORDERED MEDS

- Benzonatate Caps 100mg & 200mg
- Saline Flushes
- Heparin Flushes
- Sulfasalazine 500mg
- Morphine IR 15mg
- Certavite SR with Lutein
- Ciprofloxacin 250mg
- DepoMedrol 40mg/mL
- Gentamicin Sulfate Inj. 80mg/2mL

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Pharmacy will be open regular hours for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday January 17, 2022
- Should you have an emergent need we always have a pharmacist on-call 24/7. They can be reached at 828-855-9767.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### WHAT IS OMICRON VARIANT?

The Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant of concern (VOC) has become the dominant variant in many parts of the United State including, North Carolina.

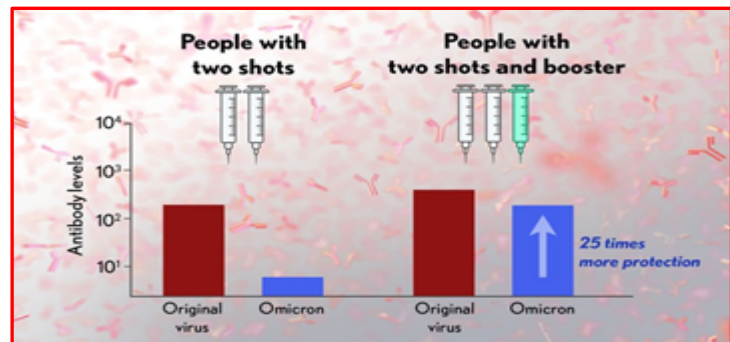
**First identified:** South Africa

**Spread:** May spread more easily than other variants, including Delta.

**Severe illness and death:** Due to the small number of cases, the current severity of illness and death associated with this variant is unclear.

**Vaccine:** Breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are expected, **but vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.** Early evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the Omicron variant can spread the virus to others. All FDA-approved or authorized vaccines are expected to be effective against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

**Treatments:** The Omicron variant reduced susceptibility to several anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), especially bamlanivimab plus etesevimab and casirivimab plus imdevimab. **Sotrovimab appears to retain activity against the Omicron variant.** Two new oral Antivirals have been approved Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (**Paxlovid**), and **Molnupiravir** have just received Emergency Use Authorizations for use in nonhospitalized patients at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19. Availability for use in skilled facilities has not yet been approved but expected in the near future.



**Resources:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/about-variants.html>; <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/statement-on-anti-sars-cov-2-mabs-and-rdv-and-omicron/>; <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2021/12/14/the-latest-on-the-omicron-variant-and-vaccine-protection/>

## Remember to Keep Your Hands and Self Clean

DONNING OF PPE	
Gown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back</li> <li>Fasten in back of neck and waist</li> </ul>
Mask or Respirator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck</li> <li>Fit flexible band to nose bridge</li> <li>Fit snug to face and below chin</li> <li>Fit-check respirator</li> </ul>
Goggles / Face Shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place over face &amp; eyes &amp; adjust to fit</li> </ul>
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend to cover wrist of gown</li> </ul>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; text-decoration: underline;">TO PROTECT YOURSELF &amp; LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep hands away from face</li> <li>Limit surfaces touched</li> <li>Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated</li> <li>Perform hand hygiene</li> </ul>	
DOFFING OF PPE	
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside of gloves is contaminated</li> <li>Grasp outside of glove with opposite gloved hand; peel off</li> <li>Hold removed glove in gloved hand</li> <li>Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist</li> <li>Peel glove off over first glove</li> <li>Discard gloves in waste container</li> </ul>
Goggles / Face shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outside of goggles or face shield is contaminated</li> <li>To remove, handle by head band or earpieces</li> <li>Place in designated receptacle for reprocessing or in waste container</li> </ul>
Gowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gown front and sleeves are contaminated!</li> <li>Unfasten ties</li> <li>Pull away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only</li> <li>Turn gown inside out</li> <li>Fold or roll into a bundle and discard</li> </ul>
Mask / Respirator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front of mask/respirator is contaminated</li> <li>Grasp bottom, then top ties or elastics and remove</li> <li>Discard in waste container</li> </ul>
PERFORM HAND HYGIENE IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE	



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**Resources:** [Sequence for Donning Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)\(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov)  
[When and How to Wash Your Hands | Handwashing | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)