THE BA.5 VARIANT IS A NEW, MORE CONTAGIOUS SUB-VARIANT OF THE OMICRON COVID-19 VARIANT. Recent data shows that BA.5 accounts for:

- Over 63% of new Covid cases in New York, according to the state
- Over 60% of new Covid cases in the United States, according to the CDC

THE BA.5 VARIANT IS MORE VACCINE-EVASIVE THAN OTHER VARIANTS AND MORE LIKELY TO REINFECT PEOPLE WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY HAD COVID. EXPERTS CONSIDER IT “THE MOST TRANSMISSIBLE VARIANT OF THE PANDEMIC YET,” ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES. THAT MEANS THAT CASES ARE HIGH RIGHT NOW:

- 9.1% of all Covid tests in New York State are positive (the highest % since January, 2022)
- Over 1,100 people were hospitalized with Covid in NYC as of July 8 (the most hospitalizations since February, 2022)

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Take a covid test if you feel any symptoms or have been exposed to someone with Covid
- Wear high quality masks whenever indoors in a public setting or in crowded outdoor settings
- Get vaccinated and fully boosted. “Vaccines remain our single most important tool to protect people against severe illness, hospitalisations, and death.” - White House Covid Response Coordinator Ashish Jha