

**STAY SAFE MN**

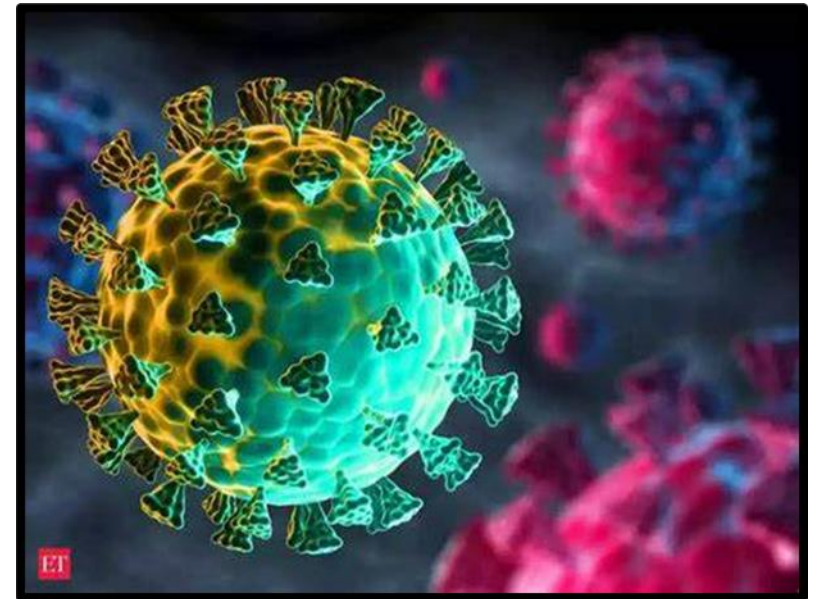
# Covid Update

**mn** MINNESOTA

# Omicron: What we know- EARLY evidence

STAY SAFE MN

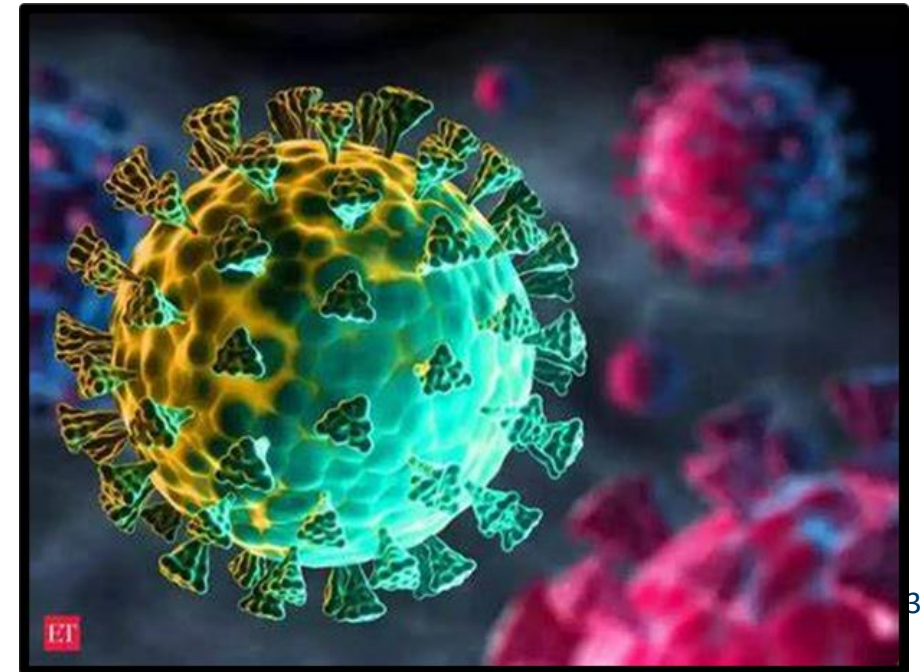
- Highly infectious and moves quickly
  - Doubling every 1.5-3.0 days
- Evidence of less severe disease, especially milder disease in persons immunized by vaccination or prior infection.
- Studies in mice and hamsters suggest Omicron infection milder because it is focused in nose, throat and wind pipe rather than lungs.



# Omicron: What we know- EARLY evidence

STAY SAFE MN

- Partial vaccine escape
  - Large number of vaccine breakthrough infections and reinfections
  - Booster increases immune response, but not at same level as Delta
  - Still thought to have some protection against severe disease
- Significantly lower efficacy of Monoclonal Antibody Therapy. One therapy (Sotrovimab) is effective but very low supplies nationally.

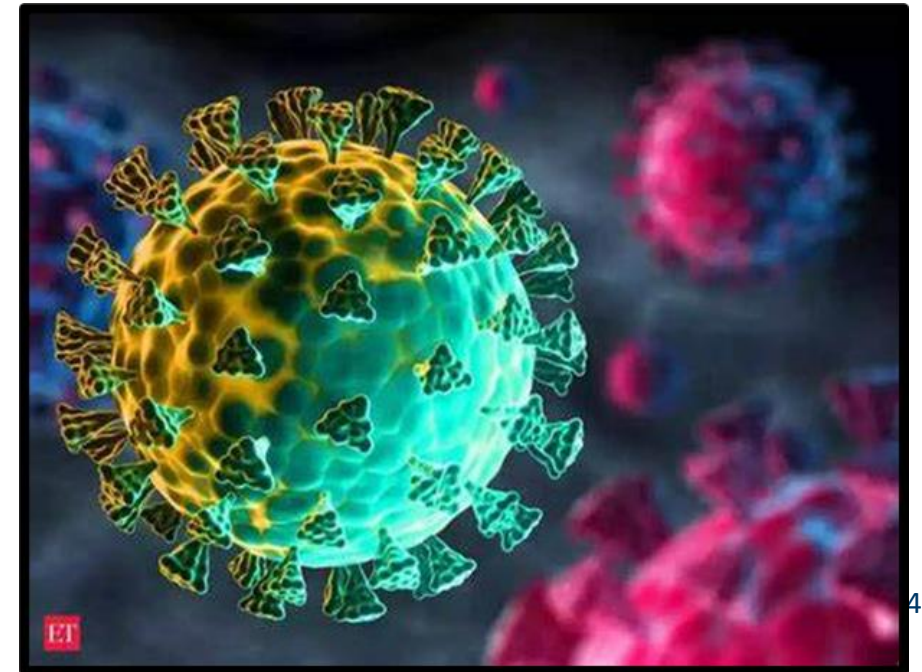




# Omicron: What we know- EARLY evidence

STAY SAFE MN

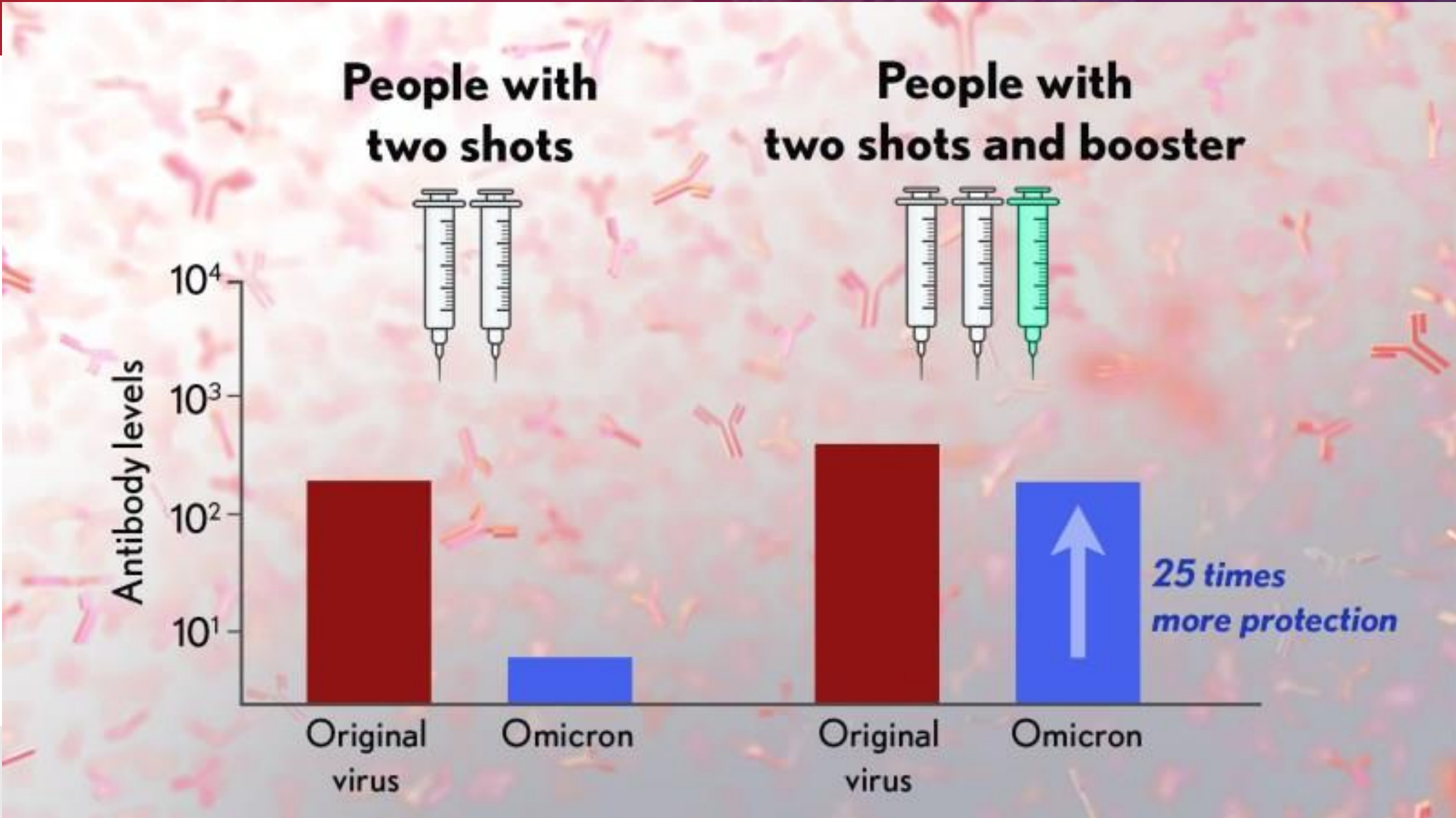
- Much higher attack rate. 2X + more infectious than Delta
- Shorter incubation period 3-5 days for omicron (5-7 days Delta)
- Infectious likely 2 days before symptoms occur and 3 days after symptoms



4

# Vaccine protection for Original Virus and Omicron Variant

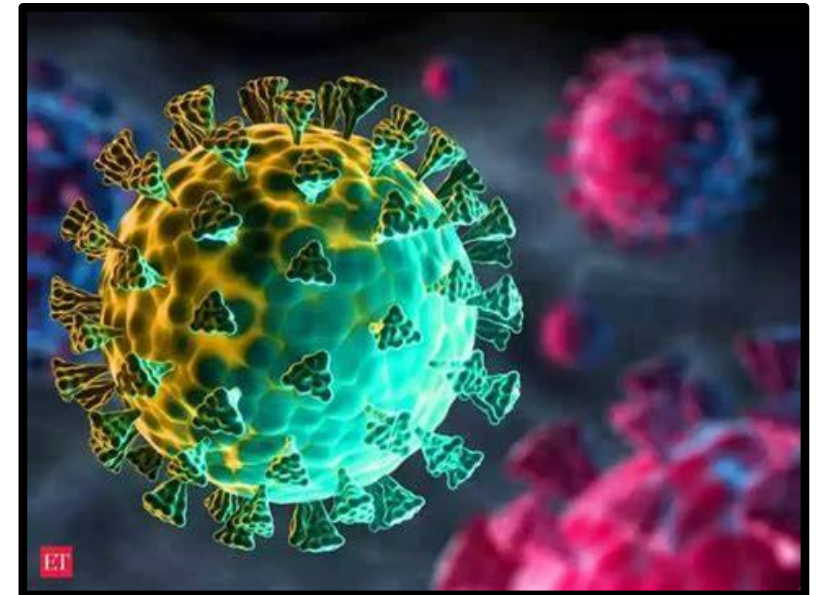
STAY SAFE MN



# What are we seeing in Minnesota?

STAY SAFE MN

- Latest MN cases suggest widespread community transmission; metro and greater MN. Estimated 90% of current cases likely attributable to Omicron.
- Increase in cases will likely be very significant, though we won't have complete counts due to OTC testing; increase in hospitalizations will follow
- Significant case backlog resulting in underreporting daily cases. Estimate we are at 15,000 cases/day (excluding at home tests)

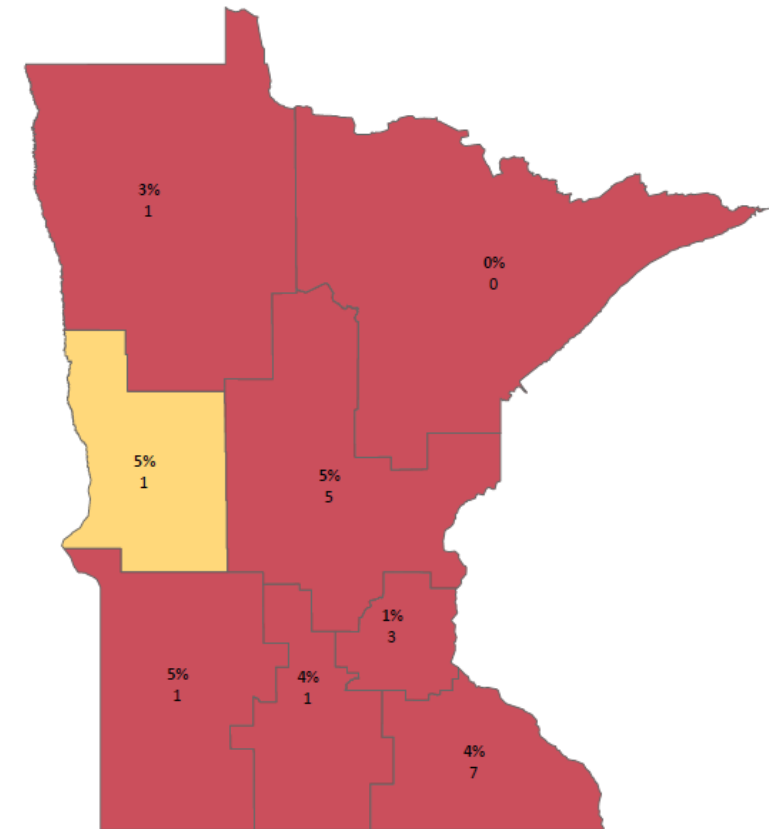




# Specific Concerns

- Healthcare capacity (both acute and long-term care) already stretched and very likely to worsen
  - Omicron wave will result in some severe disease, even if proportion is less than Delta
  - Influenza cases rising, population significantly under-vaccinated
  - Illness among HCW and families, childcare closures, will further exacerbate already strained staffing

Adult ICU Beds Available  
Jan 5, 2021



# Bridge: Prevention Strategies to Slow Spread of Omicron Until Immunity Kicks In

STAY SAFE MN

- Get vaccinated and boosted
- Masking (correctly and with better masks)
- Stay home if feeling sick
- Adherence to isolation and quarantine
- Limiting contacts with people of unknown vaccination and test status
- Improve ventilation





# Importance of Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

STAY SAFE MN

- Businesses should plan for possible disruptions.
  - Many workplaces created pandemic influenza plans or have continuity of operations plans (COOP). Be prepared to use.
- Absenteeism could be high.
- Businesses should plan for how they will continue to provide critical services in the event of a high level (25%+) of absenteeism due to Omicron.



**STAY SAFE MN**

# Latest CDC Guidance on Isolation and Quarantine

**mn** MINNESOTA

Following apply in all cases

- Must be able to safely mask at all times when with others (30% still infectious at day 6)
- Need to avoid immunocompromised and higher risk individuals
- Shortened time allows return to work, school, essential activities
  - Should lay low during early release to avoid unnecessary exposure to others
- If test positive during quarantine move to isolation
- Some sector-specific guidance is in development



# Quarantine: If exposed to someone infected with COVID

Vaccinated and up to date with booster? No Quarantine.

- ≥18 yo: Received all doses of vaccine including boosters
- 5-17 yo: completed primary series of vaccine
- Had confirmed COVID in past 90 days



10 Days  
Monitor symptoms  
Mask

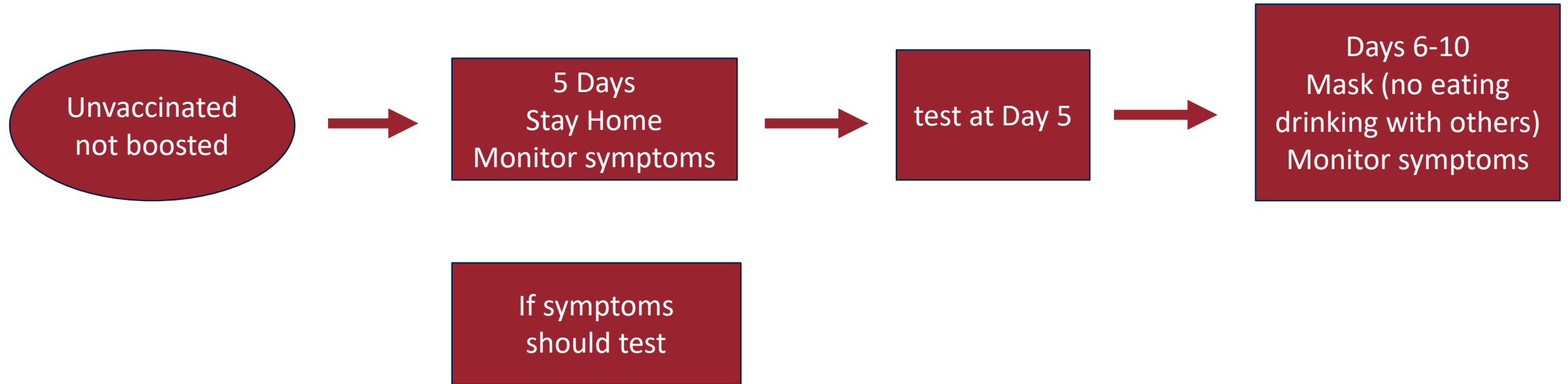
Test at Day 5

If symptoms develop:

1. Isolate
2. Get tested
  - a. If positive move to isolation guidelines
  - b. If negative return to above guidance

# Quarantine: If exposed to someone infected with COVID

- Unvaccinated, 18 and older and vaccinated but not boosted



- **Isolation:** If test positive for COVID or have symptoms and awaiting test result

