

THE BEST OF THE WEEK (31 ott – 06 nov 2022)

ECDC Europe

Spread of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant sub-lineage BQ.1 in the EU/EEA <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/spread-sars-cov-2-omicron-variant-sub-lineage-bq1-eueea>

Abstract

The observed increase in the growth rate of BQ.1 is probably driven mainly by immune escape. This variant and its sub-lineages will probably contribute to a further increase in cases of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA in the coming weeks and months.

E.J. Emanuel et al.

What Covid Has Taught the World about Ethics

NEJM, October 2022; doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2210173

Abstract

The Covid pandemic has posed substantial challenges to societies and health systems globally. Many of these challenges have been technical, such as the development of effective vaccines and therapies.

Urashima M et al.

Association Between Life Expectancy at Age 60 Years Before the COVID-19 Pandemic and Excess Mortality During the Pandemic in Aging Countries

JAMA, October 2022; doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.37528

Abstract

Older age is one of the factors associated with the greatest increase in risk of COVID-19 deaths. Japan has the highest aging ratio in the world but it was able to keep Excess Mortality low during the pandemic. To investigate this contradiction, the authors explored associations of health, well-being, population, and economic factors before the pandemic with EM during the pandemic.