

READING COMPREHENSION – TEXT 2

Read the text and choose the correct alternatives to answer the questions.

The U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of the omicron variant Wednesday — in a vaccinated traveler who returned to California after a trip to South Africa — as scientists around the world race to establish whether the new, mutant version of the coronavirus is more dangerous than previous ones.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious-disease expert, announced the finding at the White House.

"We knew it was just a matter of time before the first case of omicron would be detected in the United States," he said.

The infected person was identified as a traveler who had returned from South Africa on Nov. 22, developed mild symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19 Monday. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco obtained a sample from the patient Tuesday evening and worked feverishly overnight to assemble the genetic sequence.

The person, who had had the full two doses of the Moderna vaccine and wasn't yet due for a booster shot, is improving, California officials said.

Fauci and other medical experts strongly emphasized that Americans should continue to get vaccinated and get their booster shots. The vaccine has been proven to reduce the risk of severe illness and death, and Fauci said it is reasonable to believe it will offer protection against the omicron variant.

All the individual's close contacts have been reached and have tested negative, officials said. The patient, who agreed to remain in

quarantine, was identified only as being between 18 and 49.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom expressed confidence in the state's efforts to control the virus and said he does not anticipate imposing another stay-at-home order or other shutdown measures.

At least 23 other countries have reported omicron infections since South African authorities first identified the variant a week ago — an announcement that led the U.S. and many other nations to almost immediately bar airline travelers arriving from southern Africa.

The country's National Institute for Communicable Diseases said omicron has now overtaken the delta variant among samples now being analyzed at the genetic level. But the variant is still surrounded by many unknowns, among them: Is it more contagious than other versions, as some scientists are beginning to suspect? Does it make people more seriously ill? And can it evade the vaccine?

"Any declaration of what will or will not happen with this variant, I think it is too early to say," Fauci said.

European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it will take two to three weeks before it becomes fully clear what omicron can do to the world.

Text retrieved from: Grisdale J. (2021. December 2nd). *US Reports 1st Case of omicron variant in returning traveler.* The Asahi Shimbun <https://www.thesun.co.uk/health/16703450/thought-cough-back-problem-then-terminal-cancer/>

Question 1

Which sentence is false?

Scientists don't know exactly how infected people react to omicron.

You can get infected even if you are vaccinated with the two doses recommended.

It is proven that anti-covid regular vaccines offer protection against the omicron variant.

Omicron infections are taking place in many countries.

Question 2

In the passage, what does the word UNKNOWN mean?

dangerous

worse

disappointing

unfamiliar

Question 3

According to the text, which of the following sentences is false?

Nobody knows the real impact of omicron on people's health.

The omicron patient is now in quarantine.

The people who traveled with the patient are infected too.

It is recommended that Americans continue getting vaccinated.

Question 4

What can be implied from the passage?

The name of the infected person is confidential information.

The omicron is more contagious than other COVID variants.

A new lock-down is highly recommended.

It is impossible to know what omicron can do on people's health.

Question 5

From the passage we can say that...

... it was expected that Americans get infected.

... South Africa is safe from omicron infections.

... the new variant of coronavirus is more dangerous than the previous ones.

...the infected person is an adult woman.

GRAMMAR QUIZ

69.1

Some of these sentences need **a/an**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 7.- My brother works for insurance company. _____
- 8.- I don't like violence. _____
- 9.- When we were in Rome, we stayed in big hotel. _____
- 10.- If you have problem, I'll try and help you. _____

69.3

Complete the sentences using the following words:

air	day	friend	joke	language	meat
patience	people	picture	queue	space	umbrella

Sometimes the word needs to be plural (-s), and sometimes you need to use **a/an**.

- 6.- Last night I went out with some _____ of mine.
- 7.- There were very few _____ in town today. The streets were almost empty.
- 8.- I'm going out for a walk. I need some fresh _____
- 9.- I think it's going to rain. Do you have _____ I could borrow?

70.2

Which is correct?

- 1.- Di you have nice weather / **a nice weather** when you were away?
- 2.- We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / **a bad luck**.
- 3.- Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.
- 4.- When the fire alarm rang, there was complete chaos / **a complete chaos**.
- 5.- Bad news don't / **doesn't** make people happy.
- 6.- There's some lovely scenery / **a lovely scenery** in this part of the country.
- 7.- I like my job, but it's very hard work / **a very hard work**.
- 8.- I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / **papers**.