

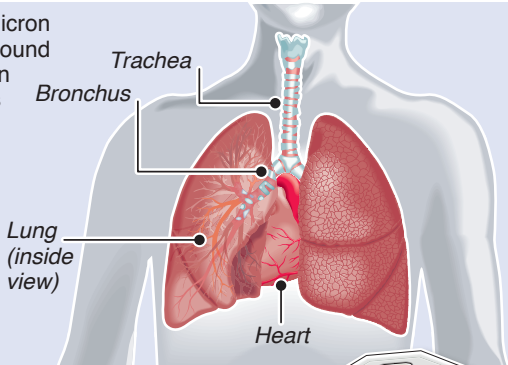
# Omicron thrives in airways

The Omicron coronavirus variant can multiply within airways faster than both the Delta version and original strain, according to a Hong Kong University study awaiting peer review

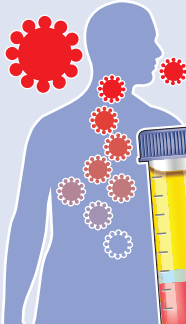
**Supercharged spread:** Omicron variant B.1.529 replicates around **70 times faster** than Delta in **bronchus** – which connects trachea to lungs – within 24 hours of infection

Study finds that Omicron replicates more than **10 times less efficiently** in lung tissue than original strain.

**This may signal lower severity of disease**



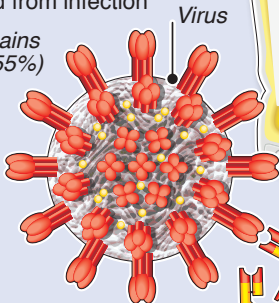
**Antibody response:** Variant is found to be resistant to **convalescent plasma** – donated by people who have recovered from infection



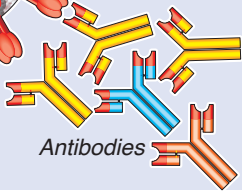
Plasma contains antibodies (55%)

White blood cells and platelets (<1%)

Red blood cells (45%)



**Vaccine efficacy:** Variant can cause 21-fold reduction in potency of antibodies created by mRNA-based vaccines



Antibodies