



Rodney's Take

January 17, 2022

When Omicron Is Omi-Gone...

Just a quick note on a market holiday...

The coronavirus infection numbers in the U.K. peaked at more than 200,000 new cases around New Year's and have since fallen to 128,000. Britain was one of the first places to experience a surge in this latest round of the disease, so the fact that the nation had a huge surge that is receding quickly is great news. In the U.S., the average number of daily new cases in Washington, D.C., one of the first cities hit hard, peaked around 2,000 in the first week of January and has since fallen to 1,700. It appears that the highly infectious but less-severe strain of COVID-19 is racing through the population. That's bad for our healthcare system in the short run but great for our economy as the disease fades.

If omicron really is on the way out, then we can look forward to more employees at work, more customers in restaurants, more kids in school, and just a general return to normalcy (whatever that is at this point). The surge in economic activity likely will put us right back where we were last fall, facing shortages of goods on shelves because the supply chain is still stretched and dealing with longer wait times at service businesses like bars, restaurants, and tourist destinations. The result will be more inflation, as businesses work to secure inventory and retain staff.

One great thing should come out of the omicron spread: far greater natural immunity. Officially, we're notching record numbers of infections. But we

also know that some percentage of the population will get an asymptomatic infection, will never report their condition, or both, which means that the actual number of cases is some factor higher than the official reports. This bodes well for dealing with the next variant that surely will come.

Have a great holiday!

Rodney

Got a question or comment? You can contact us at info@hsdent.com.