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**INDIA**

## Karnataka's hospitalizations are low because of high immunization rates – Experts

[January 24, 2022](#) / [newstribes](#)

Despite having over 50,000 active cases across the state in the midst of an Omicron wave, Karnataka's daily hospitalisation rate remains low.

According to the state health department, 5164 persons requested admission to health care facilities on Sunday, with 3386 seeking admission to government institutions and 1,778 seeking admission to private facilities. Admissions for oxygen beds, intensive care units, and ventilators totaled 1048, 421, and 129, respectively. Hospitalizations decreased beginning on January 20, when 5,344 persons were hospitalised, compared to 5529 on January 21 and 5237 on January 22.

According to experts, hospitalisation is rare due to high immunisation rates.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities, less than 0.5 percent of current patients are in critical care, and paediatric cases have not increased. According to the BBMP Covid bed status on January 24, 626 of the 6,963 government quota beds available in the city were occupied, leaving 6,337 open.

According to data from the state health department, the positive rate in the previous week was 12.45 percent.

At the peak of the pandemic, the number of active patients in the first and second waves was substantially greater, at 1.2 lakh and over 6 lakh, respectively.

"Hospitalisations and ICU admission for severe COVID has been less in the third wave. Reasons are multifold. One of the main reasons for the same would be effective vaccinations India has adopted with nearly 100% having received the first dose. Virulence of the virus also would have weakened causing less severe disease. The third wave as we are aware is triggered by newer Omicron strain and there's evidence of it

being highly transmissible with less virulence as seen in patient outcomes in South Africa," Dr. Pradeep Rangappa, a member of the government clinical expert council and consultant, intensivist and critical care at Manipal Hospital, echoed this sentiment.

Rangappa warned that the public should remain on high alert and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour to avoid becoming infected. "From the data available, Delta variant and Omicron are both lingering along causing infections and elderly vulnerable populations are still being affected necessitating hospital admission for oxygen which is to be taken note of," he said.

Dr Vishal Rao, Regional Director – Head & Neck Surgical Oncology and Robotic Surgery, HCG Cancer Hospital, and member of the state genomic monitoring committee, stated, "With each passing year, the virus attempts to become smarter and more powerful through transmission, immune evasion, and virulence. In 2022, the struggle between vaccination and variation will continue. Omicron's weak lung attack, paired with high vaccination coverage, will be a crucial differentiating element in the third wave's ability to minimise hospitalisation and ICU occupancy."

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