

We are aware that COVID is on the rise with the Omicron variant. The CDC has now confirmed that the Omicron variant is the dominant strain in the U.S. – comprising 73 percent of cases and replacing Delta as the variant of most concern.

Although there is still much to learn about the severity of illness it causes, we do know that Omicron appears to be easily transmissible.

While we will not be enforcing the wearing of masks during the pageant, we encourage each contestant to do what they are comfortable doing. If a contestant wants to wear a mask, they should definitely do so.

- **We encourage all contestants to practice these simple steps:**
 - Wash your hands often
 - Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Clean and disinfect
 - Monitor your health daily