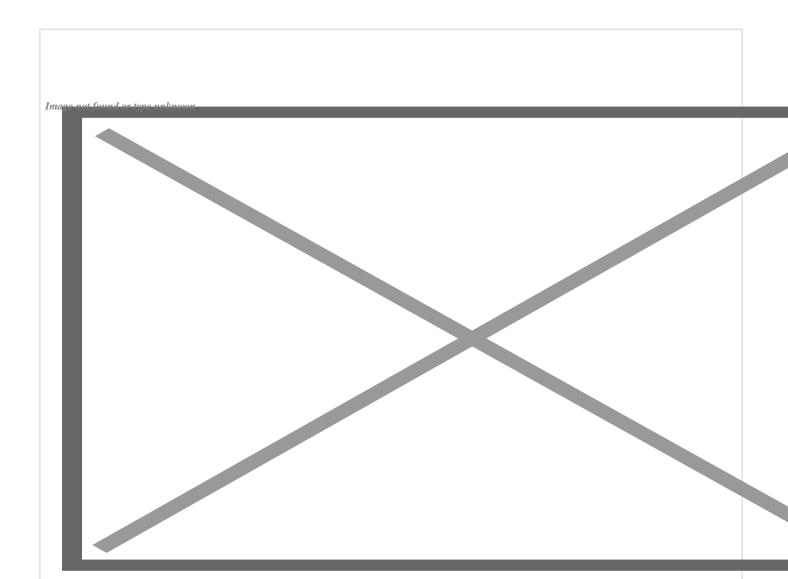
U.S National Guard called out as COVID-19 cases overwhelm hospitals



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Washington, December 11 (RHC)-- At least four U.S. states have called in the National Guard to assist overwhelmed doctors and nurses after a post-Thanksgiving surge in COVID-19 cases led to a 15% jump in hospitalizations in just two weeks.

Nearly all U.S. cases are linked to the Delta coronavirus variant, though health officials warn the Omicron variant continues to spread rapidly.

Earlier this week, U.S. federal regulators approved booster doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines for 16- and 17-year-olds.

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