



Round Table Report

11 January 2021

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threat

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2020

Sources: This update is based on multiple official sources, including [WHO updates](#), Ministries of Health, National Health authorities and official social media accounts. Detailed updates are presented on the [ECDC website](#) and [ECDC COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Other news:

COVID-19 Variants

As of 11 January 2021, according to media and official sources, the variant VOC 202012/01 has been identified in 49 countries. Since its identification and as of 11 January 2021, around 10 500 cases have been identified.

In the EU/EEA, around 550 cases have been identified in 21 countries: Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, Norway, France, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Cyprus, Slovakia, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Malta, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Romania.

Outside the EU/EEA, more than 9 900 cases have been identified in 28 countries: United Kingdom, Israel, India, United States of America, Japan, Australia, Turkey, South Korea, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Jamaica, Thailand, Brazil, Iran, Chile, Pakistan, China, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Taiwan, Lebanon, Oman, Vietnam, Peru, Mexico and Russia.

As of 11 January 2021, according to media and official sources, the variant 501.V2 has been identified in 18 countries. Since its identification and as of 11 January 2021, around 400 cases have been identified.

In the EU/EEA, around 10 cases have been identified in 7 countries: Ireland, France, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and Austria.

Outside the EU/EEA, more than 390 cases have been identified in 11 countries: South Africa, the United Kingdom, Botswana, Israel, Switzerland, Australia, South Korea, China, Zambia, Canada and Japan.

This figures are likely to be underestimated as the identification of the variants are correlated to the testing strategy and capacity of the member states.

Pfizer vaccine: [EMA](#) recommends extracting an additional sixth dose from the 5-dose vials of the Pfizer

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COVID-19 vaccine to allow for optimised use of the available vaccine doses.

Neutralization of N501Y mutant SARS-CoV-2 by BNT162b2 vaccine-elicited sera

Sources: [Neutralization of N501Y mutant SARS-CoV-2 by BNT162b2 vaccine-elicited sera](#) and [Pfizer](#)

Sera of 20 participants in a previously reported trial of the mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine BNT162b2 were tested in vitro with SARS-CoV-2 that had the viruses either the wildtype N501 or mutated Y501 amino acid in their spike protein, which is a key target of virus neutralising antibodies. Variant strains initially detected in the United Kingdom and South Africa that have been associated with higher transmissibility (VOC202012/01 and N501.V2, respectively) both carry the N501Y substitution in addition to other substitutions. In this in vitro study, sera of 20 participants from the previously reported Phase 3 trial neutralized the virus with the substitution, and also neutralized the virus without the substitution.

WHO mission to China: According to [media](#), the WHO team to probe COVID-19's origins will arrive in China on 14 January.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC):

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes a PHEIC. On 11 March 2020, the Director-General of the [WHO](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The [third](#), [fourth](#) and [fifth](#) International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee meeting for COVID-19 were held in Geneva on 30 April, 31 July and 29 October 2020, respectively. The committee concluded during these meetings that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to constitute a PHEIC.

Assessment: For the last available risk assessment, please visit [ECDC dedicated webpage](#).

Actions: ECDC has published the thirteenth update of its [rapid risk assessment](#). A [dashboard](#) with the latest updates is available on ECDC's website. ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) on the risk of increase of COVID-19 infection related to end-of-year festive season was published on 4 December 2020. On 29 December 2020, ECDC published [rapid risk assessment](#) on the risk related to spread of new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern in the EU/EEA.

The next update on worldwide COVID-19 figures will be on 14 January 2021.

Risk assessment under production

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on *Salmonella* Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published in week 03-2021.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

Participants

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Duty Officers:

24/7: -

Threat Detection: -

Rapid Assessment and Outbreaks: -

Communication: -

Representative of:

Epidemic Intelligence: -

Response: -

Vaccine Preventable Diseases: -

Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -

Food and Water-borne Diseases: -

Influenza: -

Microbiology Coordination: -