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Sent:
         Thur 12/24/2020 11:20:03 AM
         ter info: oproep ECDC voor meer sequencing: Detection of new SARS-CoV-2 variant in the European Region
Subject:
Received:
                   Thur 12/24/2020 11:20:03 AM
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Sent: woensdag 23 december 2020 15:10
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                                                                     @ncipd.org; 5.1.2e @ncipd.org; 5.1.2e @hzjz.hr;
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   e@ssi.dk; 5.1.2e @terviseamet.ee; 5.1.2e @terviseamet.ee; 5.1.2e @terviseamet.ee;
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Dear Operational Contact Points for COVID-19,

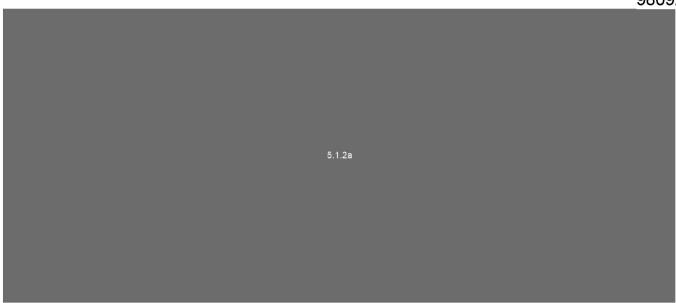
Cc: National Coordinators
Cc: National Focal Points

To follow up on the identification of a new SARS-CoV-2 variant (named VOC-202012/01) in the United Kingdom (UK) and the associated recent developments of increased incidence with the need to further strengthen public health and social measures in South-East England, we would like to share some proposed strategies to strengthen detection and reporting of this particular variant.

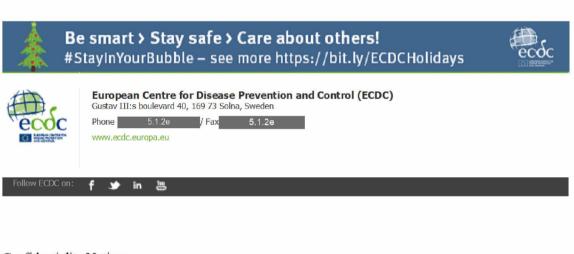
The new variant was identified through a broad high-throughput sequencing (HTS) strategy implemented in the UK, where up to 10 % of all SARS-CoV-2 PCR-positive samples have been sequenced. There are reports from some countries within the European Region that the UK VOC 202012/01 variant has already been detected and therefore might already be circulating. Reinforcing the characterisation strategy would assist everyone to better understand the current situation.

Our recommendation to countries is as follows:





WHO Europe and ECDC COVID-19 laboratory teams



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