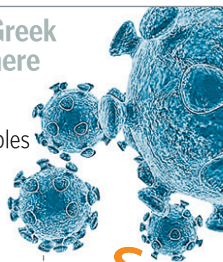


New WHO labels for Covid-19 variants

The UN health agency uses letters of the Greek alphabet to avoid stigmatising nations where they were first detected



Date identified

Earliest recorded samples

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

Increase in transmissibility or virulence

α	β	γ	δ
Alpha B117	Beta B1351	Gamma P1	Delta B16172
Dec 18, 2020	Dec 18, 2020	Jan 11, 2021	May 11, 2021
United Kingdom	South Africa	Brazil	India

VARIANTS OF INTEREST

Can cause community transmission or multiple clusters, or detected in multiple countries

ϵ	ζ	η
Epsilon B1427/B1429	Zeta P2	Eta B1525
March 5, 2021	March 17, 2021	March 17, 2021
United States	Brazil	Multiple countries
θ	ι	κ
Theta P3	Iota B1526	Kappa B16171
March 24, 2021	March 24, 2021	April 4, 2021
Philippines	United States	India