

# South Africa Coronavirus Variant

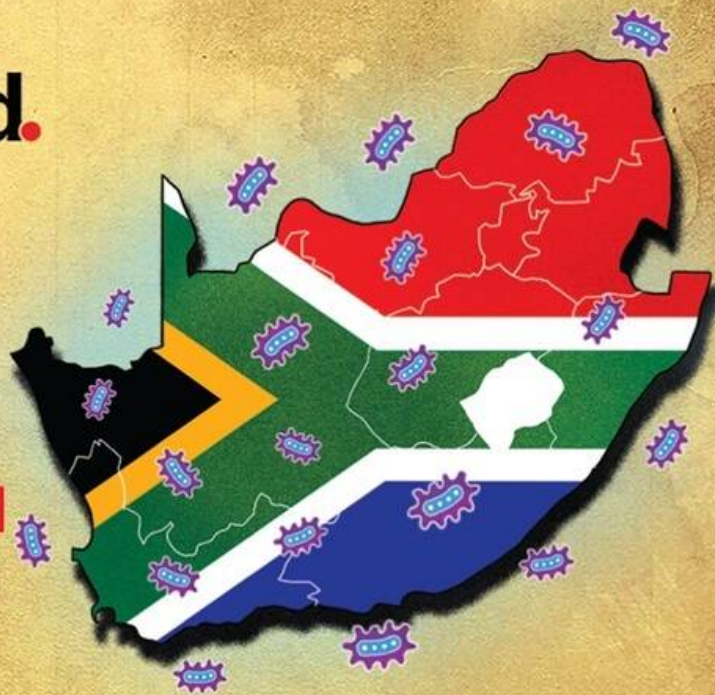
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**In news :** A mutation of the Covid-19 virus(501Y.V2) which is more transmissible was discovered in South Africa and announced in December 2020.

## What is South Africa Coronavirus Variant?

- In South Africa, another variant of SARS-CoV-2 (known as 20H/501Y.V2 or B.1.351) emerged independently of B.1.1.7.
- This variant shares some mutations with B.1.1.7(of the UK).
- Cases attributed to this variant have been detected in multiple countries outside of South Africa

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE **SOUTH** **AFRICAN** VARIANT OF COVID-19



### WHAT IS THIS NEW VARIANT?

- Like the UK mutation (B.1.1.7), the South African strain (501Y.V2) is more transmissible
- It is less susceptible to antibody neutralisation, meaning, antibody treatments might not be very effective against it
- It affects the younger population, with no history of co-morbidities, more
- However, unlike the UK one, there is no evidence to suggest that the South African variant is potentially deadlier

**#QUIXPLAINED**

### Other covid-19 variants

1. **The United Kingdom (UK):** A new variant of SARS-CoV-2 (known as 20I/501Y.V1, VOC 202012/01, or B.1.1.7) emerged with a large number of mutations. It is associated with with an increased risk of death compared with other variants
2. **Brazil:** It is a variant of SARS-CoV-2 (known as P.1)

that was first identified in four travelers from Brazil. This variant has 17 unique mutations, including three in the receptor binding domain of the spike protein.

### **Can Covaxin, Covishield prevent new variants of Covid-19?**

- Bharat Biotech, in a pre-print study, claimed that Covaxin has the capacity of eliciting an immune response against the UK variant.
- However, Bharat Biotech has not released any details regarding Covaxin's effectiveness against the South African variant
- As per the South African government, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, on which Covishield is based, has 'limited' efficacy against the South African variant.