



Omicron: New variant of Corona Virus

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- The 'World Health Organization' (WHO) has warned the world against the 'high risk' of the new variant of corona virus, 'Omicron' (B.1.1.529) saying that its infection is likely to spread all over the world.
- **Omicron is the 'fifth' variant of the corona virus. The first case was seen in 'South Africa'.** However, it has spread to many countries of the world. In view of its seriousness, the **World Health Organization has declared it a 'Variant of Concern'.**
- Since this virus is highly diverse as compared to other variants of the past, it is still unclear how various vaccines currently being used would respond to it.
- The authentic information regarding its infection potential, severity, behavior and symptoms has not been discovered yet. However, the technology **currently being used to test corona infection (RT-PCR) is capable of detecting infection of new variants as well.**

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