

*Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and the dynamic pandemic situation some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of the last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.*

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Table 1: Overview of country responses

Country	Types of variants	Types of variants – further information	Percentage of variants	Specific regulations for VoC: isolation/quarantine/testing
<b>Austria</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351	B.1.1.7 (UK/British) and B.1.351 (South African) have been confirmed. B.1.1.7 is widespread in the East, B.1.351 in the Western provinces.	The reporting format changed recently: it used to distinguish between PCR-suspected and fully sequenced samples and between B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 confirmed samples. At the moment our publicly available monitoring report gives the percentage of SARS-CoV-2 positive that have tested positive for the N501Y mutation (by PCR or sequencing), so a composite of both variants and possibly other strains. In mid-February (latest numbers) the nation-wide percentage was almost 60%. <a href="https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-varianten-in-oesterreich/">https://www.ages.at/themen/krankheitserreger/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-varianten-in-oesterreich/</a>	Nation-wide regulations: prioritized contact tracing; category I (close contacts) are tested twice, category II are tested once. Some regions might have introduced further specific regulations.
<b>Belgium</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 Brazilian (without further specification)	20% of positive PCR cases are sequenced	45,9% UK/British variant 5,6 % South African variant 1,2% Brazilian variant (out of positive PCR samples)	No specific measures.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	B.1.1.7	In BG only the UK/British variant is present with 101 confirmed cases (data from 15th February); UK/British variant is spread in 12 of 28 regions of Bulgaria		No specific measures. In general: 14 days of isolation for infected people
<b>Czech Republic</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 Brazilian (without further specification)	UK/British variant in estimated 60% of all cases, and a few cases of South African and Brazilian variants. Concrete share of sequenced cases in total cases is unknown.		No specific measures. In general: lockdown started on 1st March because of a huge spread of virus. The quarantine is prolonged from 10 to 14 days. No information on capacity for sequencing available.
<b>Estonia</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351	Results during the period 11.01.2021-14.02.2021: B.1.1.7: total number of cases: 78 B.1.351: total number of cases: 5	B.1.1.7: 12,1% B.1.351: 0,8%	No specific measures, but Health Board is sequencing positive tests of arrivals from abroad.



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<b>Finland</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 P1	<p>FI have registered mainly UK/British variant and only a few cases of South-African or Brazilian variants (<a href="https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases-and-vaccinations/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates/situation-update-on-coronavirus">https://thl.fi/en/web/infectious-diseases-and-vaccinations/what-s-new/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-updates/situation-update-on-coronavirus</a>):</p> <p>Total of 1,239 * cases caused by the coronavirus variants have been identified in Finland (as of 2<sup>nd</sup> March): B.1.1.7: UK/British variants: 1,174 B.1.351: South African variants: 64 P.1: Brazilian variant: 1</p>	<p>FI is not testing variants systematically, only in capital region because cases are increasing and the situation is alarming. In the capital region the percentage of the UK/British variant is about 50% (data from last week of February).</p>	No specific measures.
<b>Italy</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 P1	<p>The analysis of the variants is carried out by the laboratories of the individual regions, under the coordination of the ISS. The ECDC recommends sequencing at least about 500 randomly selected samples each week at the national level, with the following priorities: individuals vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 who subsequently become infected despite an immune response to the vaccine; high-risk settings, such as hospitals where SARS-CoV-2 positive immunocompromised patients are hospitalized for long periods; cases of reinfection; individuals arriving from countries with a high incidence of SARS-CoV-2 variants; increase in cases or change in transmissibility and/or virulence in an area; change in the performance of diagnostic tools or therapies; cluster analysis, to evaluate the transmission chain and/or the effectiveness of infection containment strategies.</p>	<p>Technical Report on variants prevalence (18 February 2021, in Italian): <a href="https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Relazione+tecnica+terza+indagine+flash+per+le+varianti+del+virus+SARS-CoV-2+%282%29.pdf/a03f33e6-d775-9ab0-b0ce-9cdd289c711d?t=1614707205598">https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/Relazione+tecnica+terza+indagine+flash+per+le+varianti+del+virus+SARS-CoV-2+%282%29.pdf/a03f33e6-d775-9ab0-b0ce-9cdd289c711d?t=1614707205598</a></p> <p>The national prevalence estimates are as follows: - B.1.1.7/VOC 20212/01 variant: 54.0% (range: 0%-93.3%) - P1 variant: 4.3% (range: 0%-36.2%) - 501.V2 (lineage B.1.351): 0.4% (range: 0%-2.9%)</p>	No specific measures.
<b>Malta</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351	<p>UK/British variant is present. MT is sequencing 12 % of positive cases, thereof 8% were UK/British variant.</p>	<p>8% UK/British variant Only 1 South African variant</p>	No specific measures.
<b>Netherlands</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.1.7 with E484K B.1.351 P1 P2 B.1.525 with E484K + F888L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK/British variant</li> <li>• UK/British variant with E484K mutation</li> <li>• South African variant</li> <li>• Two Brazilian variants (P1 and P2)</li> <li>• B.1.525 variant with E484K + F888L mutations</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/virus-sars-cov-2/variants-of-coronavirus-sars-cov-2">https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/virus-sars-cov-2/variants-of-coronavirus-sars-cov-2</a></p>	<p>In the week of 19/2 almost 60% were UK/British variants. The number of other variants is too small to include.</p>	No specific measures.



		The reproduction number for the UK/British variant is 1,14 at the moment.		
<b>Poland</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351	UK/British and South African variants confirmed		
<b>Portugal</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 Brazilian (without further specification)	About 50% of cases are UK/British variant and only a few are South African and Brazilian variants. PT has about 1000 new cases per day, cases increased in the last days.		
<b>Slovakia</b>		There is occurrence of UK/British variant. There was a suspect on South African variant, but was not confirmed. Sequencing is limited.	UK/British variant in range of 30 to 75 % (differing by regions).	SK adopted a new rule: a person suspected of COVID contact is booked for PCR test 8 days after notice. If identified positive, the person has to stay in quarantine for another 14 days. Together with waiting for test it is equal to 22 days of isolation.  Data are differing per region and are depending on for example high frequency of movement as well as on sequencing of samples in laboratories. The capacity of sequencing is limited at the moment. However, there are discussions to increase capacities with the goal of 10% of sequencing of the contaminated samples.
<b>Slovenia</b>	B 1.258.17 B.1.1.7 B.1.351	Samples from diagnostic microbiological laboratories NLZOH from all of Slovenia are strongly dominated by version B 1.258.17, which in Slovenia accounts for 78.5% of sequenced genomes (also in neighboring countries). So far, it's been only 1 case of so called South African variant, and 6 cases with UK/British variant (among analyzed 1.096 samples). <a href="https://www.nlzoh.si/objave/nacionalna-strategija-sledenja-znanim-in-novim-razlicicam/">https://www.nlzoh.si/objave/nacionalna-strategija-sledenja-znanim-in-novim-razlicicam/</a>		No specific measures.
<b>Spain</b>	B.1.1.7 B.1.351 P.1 P.2 B.1.525	Variants of interest in the surveillance pipeline: B.1.1.7 (UK/British), B.1.351 (South Africa), P.1 (Brazil), P.2, B.1.525  On January 22, the Committee on Alerts and Preparedness and Response Plans published a protocol	First, it has to be noted that detection depends on the sequencing ability in regions and may not be reflecting real prevalence of the variants in Spain. According to the last report published on February 22 <a href="https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPu">https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPu</a>	There are no specific regulations (nor control measures) concerning nationals infected with these variants, but some restrictions have been issued to limit their spread. Thus, since December 22nd, air and sea travels from the UK are limited to residents in Spain or Andorra.



		<p>to include SARS-CoV-2 genome sequencing into the SARS-CoV-2 surveillance. The document defines the procedure to follow to identify and monitor the different SARS-CoV2 varieties in Spain. In pursuing this aim, a network of laboratories coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the National Centre of Microbiology have been set up.</p> <p>(<a href="https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/documentos/Integracion_de_la_secuenciacion_genomica_en_la_vigilancia_del_SARS-CoV-2.pdf">https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/documentos/Integracion_de_la_secuenciacion_genomica_en_la_vigilancia_del_SARS-CoV-2.pdf</a>).</p>	<p><a href="https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/documentos/2021.02.22_Informe_de_variantes_web.pdf">blica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov/documentos/2021.02.22_Informe_de_variantes_web.pdf</a>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- B.1.1.7 (UK/British variant) 898 cases detected by sequencing. High variability in its detection among regions.</li> <li>- B.1.351 (South Africa) 15 cases detected (out of them, 9 in the same outbreak and 4 related among them)</li> <li>- P.1 (Brazil) one confirmed case, being a person coming from Brazil</li> <li>- P.2 eleven cases (two in travelers and 9 detected in the same autonomous community).</li> <li>- B.1.525 One case sequenced in January 2021</li> </ul>	<p>Likewise, since February 3, flights from Brazil and South Africa have been restricted to Spanish and Andorran residents or passengers in transit to a non-Schengen country with a stopover shorter than 24 hours. These passengers are not allowed to leave the airport. These travel restrictions with the UK, Brazil and South Africa March have been extended until March 16.</p> <p>Furthermore, as from February 22, travelers coming from Brazil or South Africa must stay in quarantine for 10 days after arrival. The quarantine period can be shortened to seven days if travelers are tested negative by PCR (or any other analogue technique) or by an antigen test with a sensibility <math>\geq 90\%</math> and a specificity <math>\geq 97\%</math>. Along the quarantine, people must stay at their place of residence limiting their movements to essential activities such as acquiring food, pharmaceutical products or attending healthcare centers.</p>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p>B.1.1.7 B.1.351 P2 A.23.1 with E484K B.1.1.7 with E484K B.1.525</p>	<p>Total genomically confirmed and probable cases:</p> <p>B.1.1.7: 96.626 B.1.351: 264 P2: 35 A.23.1 with E484K: 77 B.1.1.7 with E484K: 31 B.1.525: 64</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-variants-genomically-confirmed-case-numbers/variants-distribution-of-cases-data">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-variants-genomically-confirmed-case-numbers/variants-distribution-of-cases-data</a></p>		<p>There is mandatory hotel isolation for those from high risk countries that might introduce variants entering UK:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors</a>:</p> <p>From 15 February onwards, everyone allowed to enter England who has visited or passed through a country where travel to the UK is banned in the last 10 days must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- quarantine for 10 days in a managed quarantine hotel</li> <li>- take a COVID-19 test on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of quarantining</li> </ul>

