

Highly mutated coronavirus variant

A new coronavirus variant found in southern Africa has 50 mutations, including 30 changes to the spike protein that infects human host cells and is the focus of most Covid vaccines

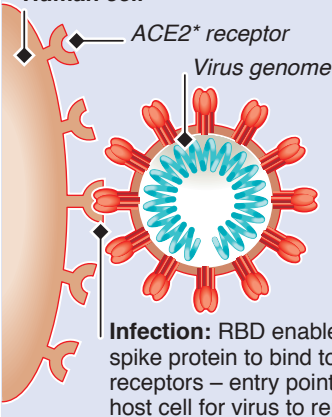


Nov: Omicron variant detected in South Africa amid surge in Covid cases from 868 to 2,465 in two days

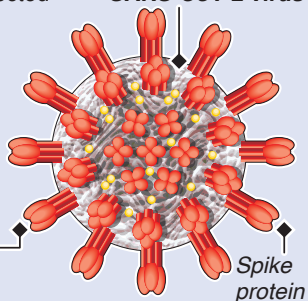
Flights banned: From Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe

Receptor-binding domain: RBD – located on tip of **spike protein** – has 10 mutations compared with just two for **Delta** variant

Human cell



SARS-CoV-2 virus



Vaccines: Elicit antibodies that bind to spike protein, including RBD tip. **Protein varies significantly from strain used to develop current vaccines**

