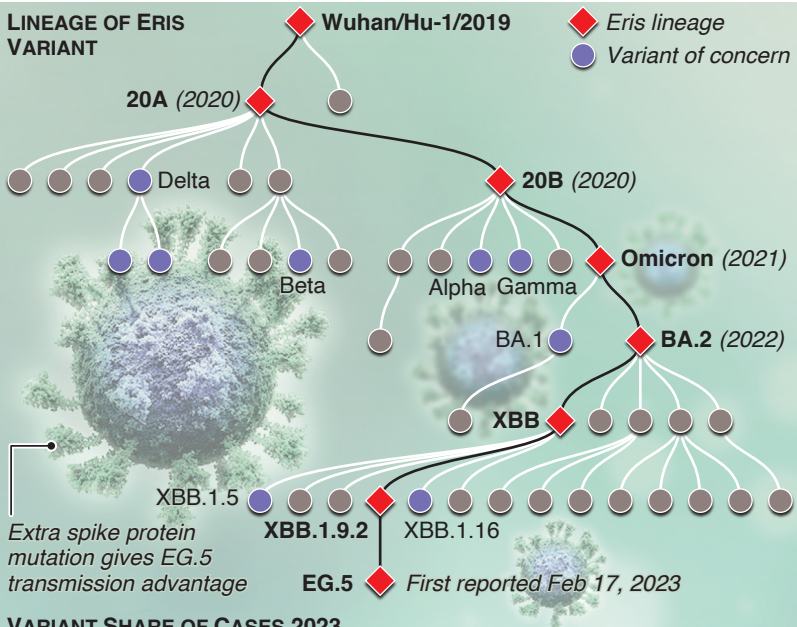


# New Covid-19 “variant of concern”

Recorded cases of COVID are rising in the U.S., Europe and Asia, with EG.5 or Eris identified as a variant of concern – fast growing and likely to become the dominant form as immunity levels wane



## VARIANT SHARE OF CASES 2023

Global EG.5 infections account for around 17% of total cases, up from just 1% in late May

U.S. hospitalizations are up by 40% since June, but still more than 90% below Jan 2022 Omicron outbreak

XBB.1.5

XBB.1.16

XBB.1.9

XBB.2.3

EG.5

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Sources: Nextstrain, New Scientist, Reuters

Picture: Getty Images

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