

What is the new Covid XEC variant?

People have started catching a potentially more contagious Covid variant, dubbed XEC, that could soon become the most dominant strain, according to scientists

ORIGINS

- XEC first reported in Berlin, Germany in Jun 2024
- Strain emerged from previously discovered **Omicron** subvariants of Covid-19

TRANSMISSION

- XEC reportedly has some new mutations that might help it spread as weather gets colder
- Variant already recorded in 27 countries across three continents, including U.S., UK, Netherlands Denmark and China
- Could become dominant strain, surpassing **KP.3.1.1** – currently considered to be the most common and contagious mutation

SYMPTOMS

- Thought to be similar to those of previous Covid variants – including high temperature, aches, tiredness, cough, sore throat and loss of sense of smell or taste
- Most people feel better within a few weeks but others could take longer to recover



PROTECTION

- Experts say keeping up to date with vaccines and booster shots would offer sufficient protection against severe illness and hospitalisation