COVID-19 VARIANTS

# The Omicron Variant

## Omicron is a variant of concern

- Estimated to be 30% more transmissible
- More than 30 spike mutations
- Higher re-infection risk

## Will vaccines work against Omicron?

- Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths
- Booster doses have been shown to be effective

## What we are learning about Omicron

- Omicron may produce less severe illness than previous COVID-19 strains, but will still produce hospitalizations, especially among the elderly
- Scientific studies are underway to learn if Omicron is more contagious, causes more severe disease, and how effective vaccines are.

**GNB.CA/CORONAVIRUS**

New Brunswick / Nouveau Brunswick

## Positive cases of Omicron are confirmed in New Brunswick.

New Brunswickers must work together to slow the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant.

Vaccines, in combination with public health measures, remain the best defence against COVID-19 and variants.

**Get vaccinated and get a booster dose when you are eligible.**

COVID-19 VARIANTS

# The Omicron Variant

The Omicron variant arrived in New Brunswick within three weeks of its discovery. In comparison to the original COVID-19 virus and the Delta variant, Omicron is estimated to be 30% more transmissible than Delta, has 30 spike mutations, a higher risk of re-infection and increased breakthrough in vaccinated people.

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**A timeline of the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its variants in New Brunswick.**

**3 weeks**

## Omicron variant

Positive cases identified in New Brunswick three weeks after initial Omicron case detected in South Africa.

This was during a time of high vaccination rates and global travel restrictions.

**6 months**

## Delta variant

Positive cases identified in New Brunswick six months after initial Delta case detected in India.

This was during a time of global lockdowns and mandatory travel isolation.

**3 months**

## COVID-19

Positive cases identified in New Brunswick three months after initial COVID-19 case detected in China.

This was during a time with no restrictions, public health measures, or awareness.