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

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.



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.

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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.

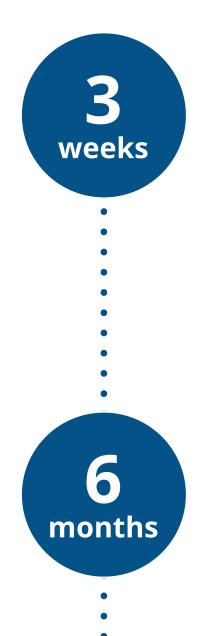
COVID-19 VARIANTS

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.



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



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.

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.

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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.