

# FIRST IMAGE OF OMICRON COVID VARIANT RELEASED, SHOWS MANY MORE MUTATIONS THAN DELTA

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Health & Sanitation and related issues

The Omicron image was produced 'from the study of the sequences of this new variant made available to the scientific community' coming mainly 'from Botswana, South Africa and Hong Kong'

The new Covid variant [Omicron](#) has many more mutations than the Delta variant, according to a first "image" of this new variant initially detected in South Africa, produced and published by the prestigious Bambino Gesù hospital in Rome.

On the three-dimensional "image", which looks like a map, "we can clearly see that the Omicron variant presents many more mutations than the Delta variant, concentrated above all in one area of the protein that interacts with human cells", the team of researchers said in a statement Sunday.

"This does not automatically mean that these variations are more dangerous, just that the virus has further adapted to the human species by generating another variant," the researchers said.

"Other studies will tell us if this adaptation is neutral, less dangerous or more dangerous," they added.

The research team focused on the search for mutations in "the three-dimensional structure of the spike protein", Claudia Alteri, professor of clinical microbiology at Milan State University and a researcher at Bambino Gesù, told AFP.

Prima foto al mondo della variante [#Omicron](#) realizzata nell'area di ricerca di Medicina Multimodale del Bambino Gesù. Mostra la struttura della proteina spike della variante Omicron a destra e Delta a sinistra rispetto alla spike originale SARS CoV-2 [#ANSA](#)  
<https://t.co/PtV3nk137S>

The image was produced "from the study of the sequences of this new variant made available to the scientific community" coming mainly "from Botswana, South Africa and Hong Kong".

"This image, which represents a map of all the variations, describes the mutations of Omicron but does not define its role," she said.

"It will now be important to define through laboratory experiments whether the combination of these mutations can have an impact on transmission or on the effectiveness of vaccines, for example," she added.

*This story has been published from a wire agency feed without modifications to the text. Only the headline has been changed.*

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