

# VARIANTS OF CONCERN

Based on clinical and epidemiological evidence, a variant of concern (VOC) is one of increased global health importance. The majority of the reported cases in Ontario are now VOCs; the Delta variant being most dominant.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The mode of transmission of VOCs is unchanged (primarily droplet).
- VOCs spread more easily & quickly.
- Getting vaccinated and following public health measures will help protect yourself and others.

### VARIANT OF CONCERN **VOC**

- Increased transmissibility (spreads more easily)
- Change in severity of the diseases
- Decrease in effectiveness of public health measures, diagnostics and vaccines

### VARIANT OF INTEREST **VOI**

- Has changes in its genetic material known to potentially lead to changes with significant global health implications (e.g., genes that increase transmissibility or immune escape)
- Has been identified in case clusters of two plus individuals suggesting transmission has occurred in small or large group settings

## Current VOCs

	<b>Alpha</b> B.1.1.7	<b>Beta</b> B.1.351	<b>Gamma</b> P.1	<b>Delta</b> B.1.617
LOCATION FIRST DETECTED	United Kingdom	South Africa	Brazil	India
DETECTED IN ONTARIO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
INCREASED TRANSMISSIBILITY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes above other VOCs
INCREASED DISEASE SEVERITY	Yes	Yes	Yes	<b>Potential Impact</b>
IMPACT ON VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS	No	Yes primarily AstraZeneca reduced efficacy	Yes slightly reduced efficacy	Yes reduced efficacy primarily in dose 1



The known number of confirmed VOC cases in Ontario change daily.  
For the most up to date numbers click here:

[Ontario COVID-19 Data Tool](#)

