

Genetic diversity of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in Portugal

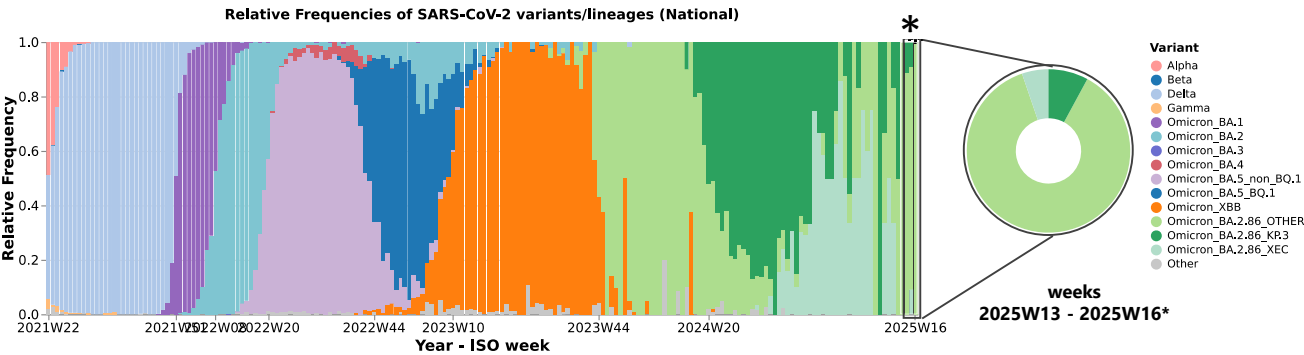
More information at <https://insaflu.insa.pt/covid19>



Situation Report

May 7th, 2025

The National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge, I.P. (INSA) has analysed **50657** SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences so far.



Main highlights

The **lineage BA.2.86** of the *Omicron* variant has been **dominant in Portugal since week 44 of 2023**, following its first detection in week 33/2023. Among its lineages, we highlight:

- **Lineage KP.3**, which is included in the list of variants of interest by the ECDC (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/variants-concern>), has shown a **declining trend** in Portugal (Figure 1).
- **Recombinant XEC lineage** of the *Omicron* variant, which resulted from the recombination between two BA.2.86 sublineages (KS.1.1 and KP.3.3), is included in the **ECDC's variants under monitoring (VUM)** list and, therefore, it is presented here independently from its ancestral lineage for better monitoring and interpretation of this report. **XEC** was dominant in Portugal between weeks 44/2024 and 04/2025 (Figure 2), and has since then been showing a **declining trend**.
- **Lineage KP.1** has been showing an increasing trend in relative frequency in Portugal since week 02/2025. In the last sampling (weeks 13/2025 - 16/2025), it **represented 78% of the analyzed sequences**. We highlight its sub-lineage **LP.8.1**, also recently classified as **VUM by ECDC**, with a **relative frequency of 58%** in the last sampling.

