

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

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



Situation Report

July 30th, 2025

The National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge, I.P. (INSA) has analysed **50977** SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences so far.

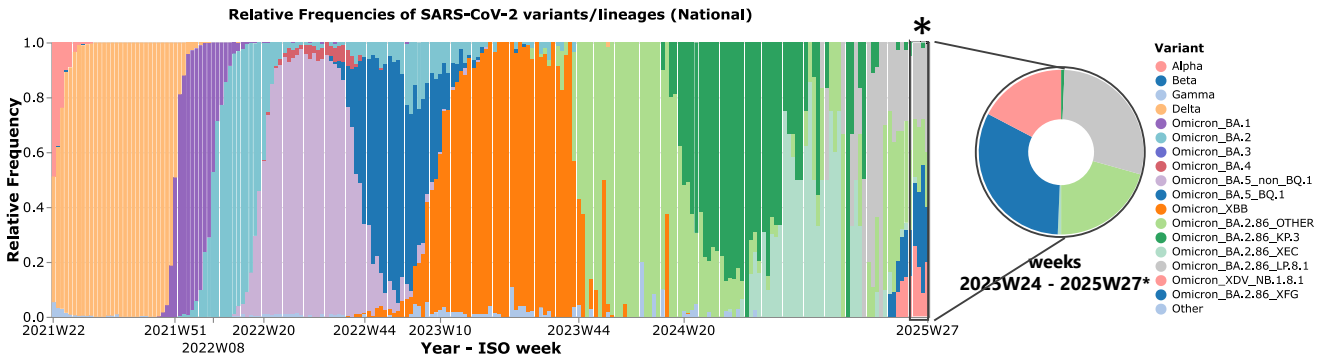


Figure 1: Evolution of the weekly relative frequency of the SARS-CoV-2 variants circulating in Portugal between ISO weeks 22/2021 (31/05/21 - 06/06/21) and 27/2025 (30/06/25 - 06/07/25), with emphasis on the latest weeks. *The presented relative frequencies refer to the period of ISO weeks 24/2025 to 27/2025. *This and other graphs can be explored interactively on the website.*

Main highlights

Summary of the circulation status in Portugal of the main SARS-CoV-2 lineages/variants of interest (VOI) or under monitoring (VUM) according to the ECDC (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/variants-concern>):

- **LP.8.1 lineage (VUM) of the Omicron BA.2.86 variant:** its relative frequency remains stable, representing approximately **28.7%** of the sequences analyzed in the latest sampling period (**weeks 24/2025 to 27/2025**) (**Figure 1**). Its most prevalent sub-lineage during this period is PF.2.2.1 (**Figure 2**).
- **NB.1.8.1 lineage (VUM) of the Omicron XDV recombinant variant:** recently detected in Portugal (week 20 of 2025), this VUM shows a **potentially increasing trend** in relative frequency, accounting for around **17.3%** of the sequences analyzed in the most recent sampling period (**weeks 24/2025 to 27/2025**) (**Figure 1**). Its sub-lineages with likely higher circulation during this period include NB.1.8.1 and PQ.1 (**Figure 2**).
- **XFG lineage XFG (VUM) of the Omicron BA.2.86 variant:** recently detected in Portugal (week 18 of 2025), this VUM shows a **potentially increasing trend** in relative frequency, accounting for around **32%** of the sequences analyzed in the most recent sampling period (**weeks 24/2025 to 27/2025**) (**Figure 1**). Its sub-lineages with likely higher circulation during this period include XFG and XFG.3 (**Figure 2**).
- In addition to the VOIs and VUMs highlighted above, the latest sampling (weeks 24/2025 to 27/2025) also identified the **circulation of other sub-lineages of the Omicron BA.2.86 variant (VOI)**, which **together** accounted for approximately **20.7%** of the sequences analyzed during this period (**Figure 1**). Notable among these is the sub-lineage PY.1 (**Figure 2**).
- In summary, **there is a co-circulation of several lineages/variants of interest (VOI) or under monitoring (VUM) according to the ECDC** (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/variants-concern>), **with no clear dominance of any particular one**. Of notice, we highlight the **recent detection and potential emergence of the recombinant lineage XFG** (recently classified as a VUM).

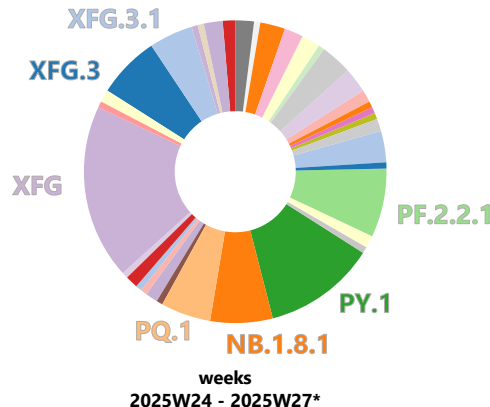


Figure 2: Distribution of the relative frequency of the most prevalent SARS-CoV-2 sub-lineages during the period from week 24/2025 to week 27/2025 (between June 9 and July 6, 2025). *Visit the website to explore additional interactive charts.*