INSACOG WEEKLY BULLETIN

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The INSACOG reports genomic surveillance of SARS CoV-2 across the country through sequencing of samples from Sentinel sites and also detailed State wise district analysis for some states under State MoUs (Maharashtra, Kerala and some others). A summary of the cumulative data of INSACOG and other state sequencing initiatives can be found at the INSACOG data portal link (http://clingen.igib.res.in/covid19genomes/) along with other INSACOG information at https://dbtindia.gov.in/insacog. New web-based query tool is now available on the data portal. All data presented on the portal is organized by date of sample collection, state, assigned lineage and mutations found on analysis.

INSACOG:

- Total number of samples processed so far is 1,28,901
- Total number of samples sequenced is 1,28,901
- Total number of sequences analysed are 1, 27,697

Samples from MoUs with state governments:

- Number of samples sequenced is 21,809

Total number of samples sequenced: (1,28,901 + 21,809) = 1,50, 710

The number of samples with pangolin lineage assigned are

Table 1: Cumulative samples with pangolin lineage assigned (as on 07.01.2021)

Community sample	Travelers sample	Total pangolin lineage assigned	Total VOC/VOI	Proportion
90915	7757	98672	71428	72.4

Cumulative distribution of VOC/VOI (as on 07.01.2022)

Alpha Variant			Beta Variant			Gamma Variant			Delta Variant			B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.3			AY Series			Omicron			
Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Tr&Co	Com	Total	Total VOC/VOI
577	3686	4263	117	102	219	1	2	3	269	40951	41220	84	5518	5602	190	16924	17114	2490	517	3007	71428

Tr&Co= Traveler and contacts; Com= Community

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Variants reported during the period

Global

The Omicron wave continues to expand globally, with new highs being established for daily infections. Rate of hospitalization during this wave is much lower compared to the previous wave with Delta, attributable to both intrinsically reduced severity with lesser propensity to cause pneumonias, and higher population immunity. However, due to very high number of cases, absolute number of hospitalizations has crossed previous highs in many countries and is creating stress on healthcare systems. While deaths have been much lower during the new wave, compared to previous waves, there have been Omicron-associated deaths. In data so far, the majority of severe cases and deaths have been in unvaccinated subjects, with high protection associated with vaccination or previous infection.

National

Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially. BA.2 lineage is a substantial fraction in India and S-gene dropout based screening is thus likely to give high false negatives. Tests suitable for PCR based screening applicable to all Omicron lineages have been approved for use. While most Omicron cases so far have been asymptomatic or mild, hospitalizations and ICU cases have been increasing in the current wave. The threat level remains unchanged.

The recently reported B.1.640.2 lineage is being monitored. There is no evidence of rapid spread and while it has features of immune escape, it is currently not a variant of concern. So far, no case detected in India.