



## Media Release

**Date: 24 December 2020**

### **New Variant of SARS-CoV-2 identified in South Africa**

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A new variant of the SARS-COV-2 virus has been identified in South Africa. As with the variant identified in the UK, this one originating from South Africa also appears to be more transmissible.

Anyone who has travelled from South Africa in the last two weeks to the Bailiwick will already be in self-isolation from the date of their entry into the Bailiwick. However, we would like to add an additional level of caution.

According to the travel history declared by travellers into the Bailiwick using the Travel Tracker, the number of passengers who have declared South Africa is extremely low. However, we are asking that anyone who has travelled to South Africa within the last two weeks prior to entering the Bailiwick, and did not specifically declare South Africa as they knew they were travelling as a Category 4 Traveller and subject to the strictest self-isolation requirements anyway, to contact Public Health on [testresults@gov.gg](mailto:testresults@gov.gg) and Public Health will assess individual circumstances.

As with the UK variant, we are learning more about the South African variant. A new case of either variant brought into the Bailiwick that isn't detected will pose a significant risk.

Please follow the isolation guidelines properly, stay vigilant, be safe and consider how your actions may affect the community.

**Ends**