



Interim case definition for variants of concern (VOC) for public health response

V1.3 . 01.04.2021

Please note, these VOC case definitions exclude VOC B.1.1.7 as this VOC is now endemic within Ireland, accounting for more than 90% of all cases in March 2021.

Confirmed VOC case

A person with P.1 or 501Y.V2 (B.1.351) variant, identified using whole genome sequencing (WGS)

These can be further categorised as travel associated or non-travel associated confirmed cases.

Probable VOC case:

A person with characteristic P.1 or 501Y.V2 (B.1.351) amino acid changes, as identified by Sanger sequencing of the S gene alone (or a portion thereof)

or

A virus with the N501Y AA change and the S gene detected (on the Thermo Fisher TaqPath assay) pending sequencing result.

or

A virus with the N501Y AA change and the S gene detected (on the Thermo Fisher TaqPath assay) for whom it is not possible to generate sequence result (insufficient sample or insufficient viral load).

or

A non-B.1.1.7 variant as reported by available PCR assays for variant identification. These assays can positively detect the N501Y AA change and, in parallel with other AA changes, they can detect but not distinguish between the P.1 or B.1.351 variants. However, sequencing is required as these assays are not 100% specific for lineages P.1 and B.1.351.

These can be further categorised as travel associated or non-travel associated probable cases

Person Under Investigation for VOC:

A person who is SARS-CoV-2 positive and has a history of travel from or transit through* a [designated state](#) within 14 days of onset of symptoms or the date of testing, whichever is earlier

OR

A person who is SARS-CoV-2 positive and his/her close household workplace or other close contact has a history of travel from or transit through* a [designated state](#) within 14 days of onset of symptoms in index case or of the date of testing, whichever is earlier

*Transit through means having travelled through a port or airport in a [designated state](#), even if the person stayed airside or portside