



# **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

## **Travel restrictions**

Screenshot

Prof Dr. med. Annelies Wilder-Smith  
Adjunct Professor, ISPM Bern  
Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases, London School of  
Hygiene and Tropical Medicine





- Travellers say their Christmas plans are "up in the air", as the UK brings in extra pre-departure tests for arrivals from Tuesday
- Nigeria criticises the UK's decision to add it to the red list - describing the restrictions on African countries as "travel apartheid"

There has been some criticism that the travel

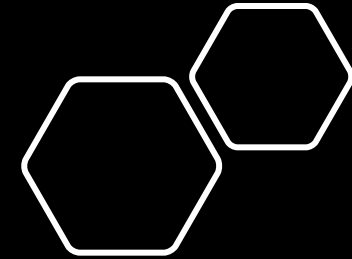


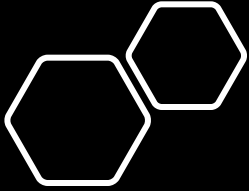
# South African anger over 'rushed' Covid travel restrictions

Scientists say they are being punished for transparency over their discovery of new variant



Screenshot



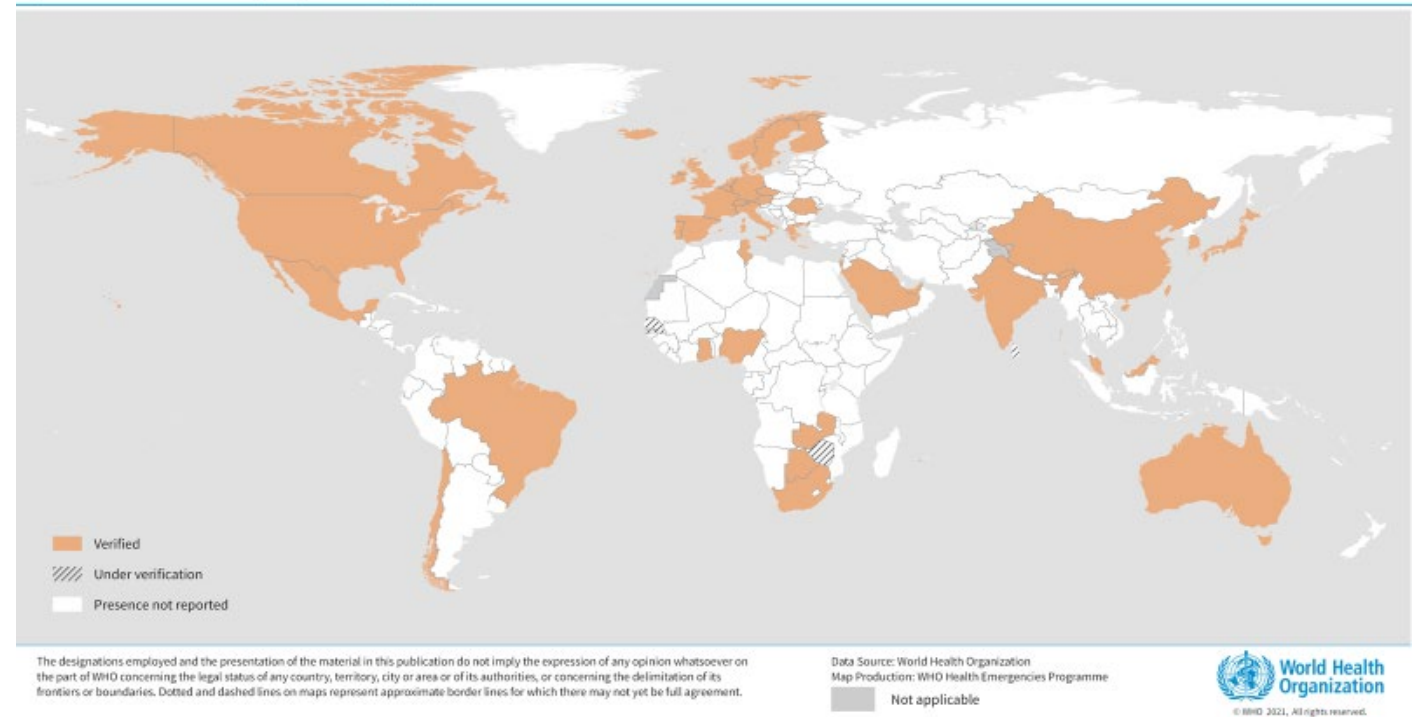


**As of 6 December 2021:**

45 countries from all 6 WHO Regions  
have reported the first detection of  
Omicron case(s)

While most countries report cases with  
recent travel-history, several countries  
are starting to see secondary  
transmission.

Countries, territories and areas reporting Omicron COVID-19 variant of concern  
(situation as of December 5, 2021, 4:00PM (CET))

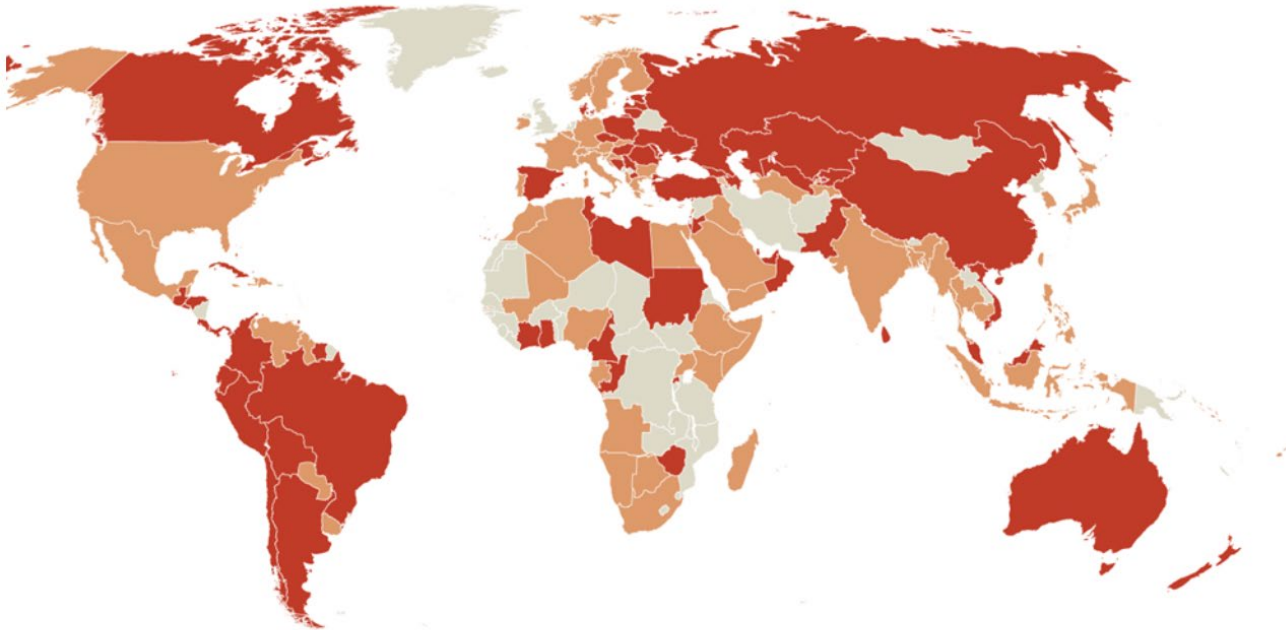


---

## Most countries in the world have imposed partial or complete border closures to foreign nationals due to coronavirus outbreak

*Countries with borders closed to the movement of noncitizens and nonresidents as of March 31, 2020*

■ Complete closure   ■ Partial closure

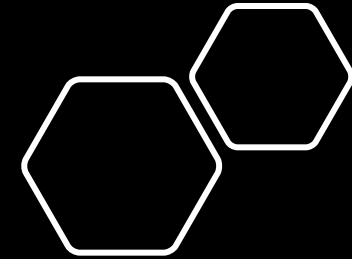


Note: Partial closure is a border closed to people arriving from other countries who are neither citizens nor residents of the destination country, including tourists and other noncitizen visitors. Partial closure also includes country situations where not all types of borders are closed (land, sea, air). Complete closure refers to a ban on anyone arriving who is not a citizen or resident of the destination country, with some possible exceptions such as scientists, diplomats, airline crews and humanitarian personnel.

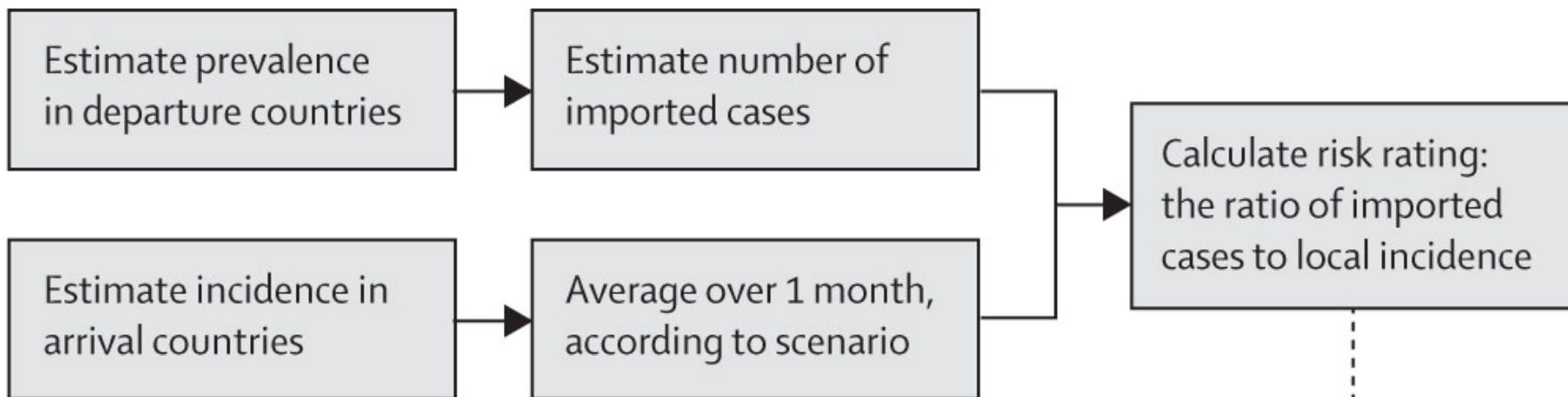
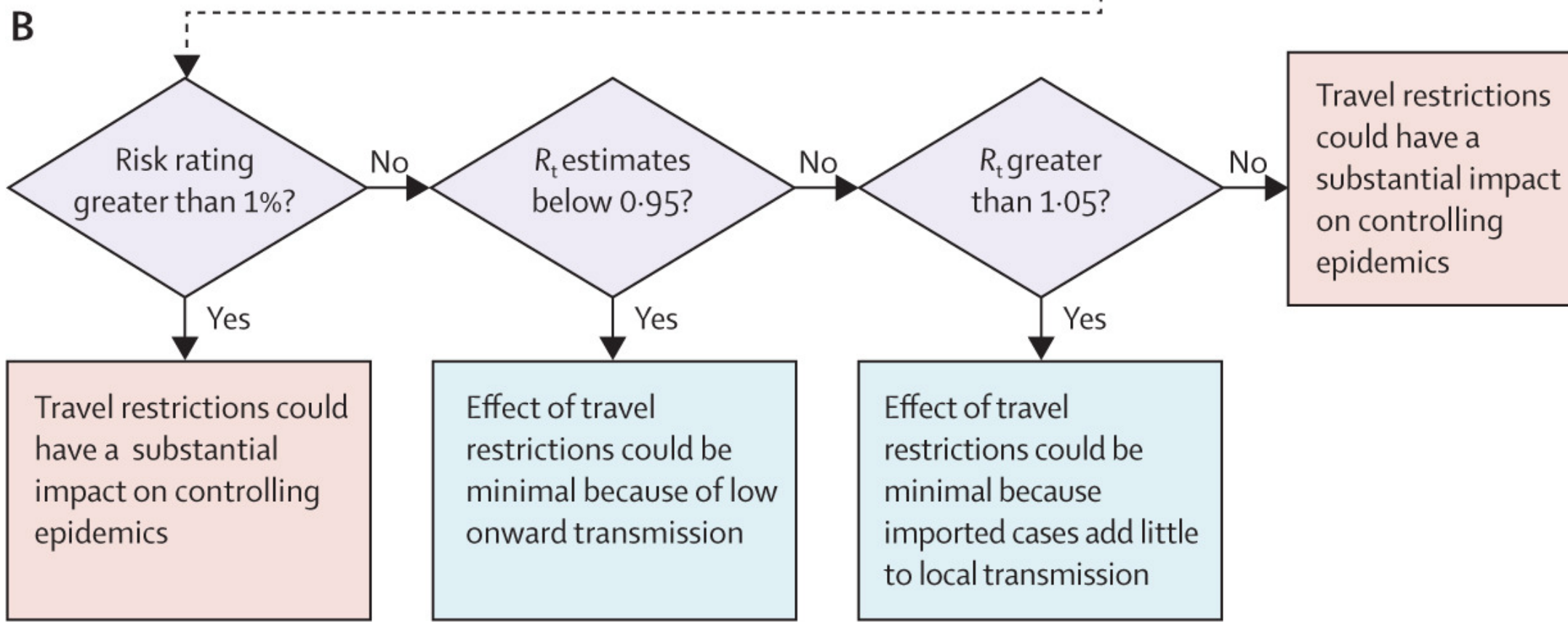
Sources: The New York Times and Al Jazeera (border closures), accessed March 31, 2020.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

---



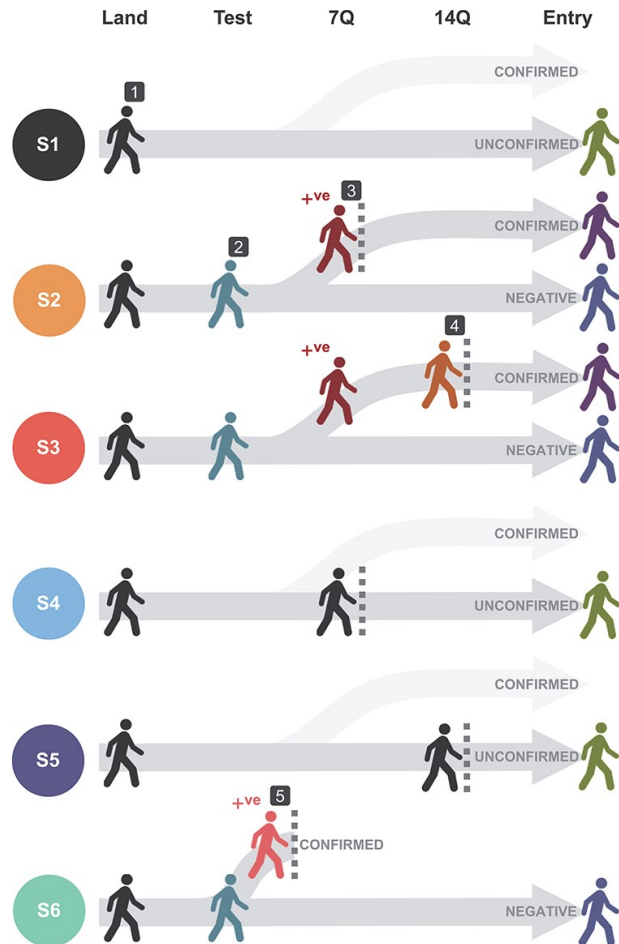


**A****B**

# Strategies at points of entry to reduce importation risk of COVID-19 cases and reopen travel

Borame L Dickens, PhD, Joel R Koo, BSc, Jue Tao Lim, MSc, Haoyang Sun, BSc,  
Hannah E Clapham, PhD, Annelies Wilder-Smith, MD, Alex R Cook, PhD 

*Journal of Travel Medicine*, Volume 27, Issue 8, December 2020, taaa141, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taaa141>



The six strategies are explored (Fig. 2) as follows:

(1) No screening—entry is allowed for all incoming travellers from the source country,

(2) Screening of all incoming travellers on arrival and 7-day isolation for test-positive travellers, with release into the community only with a negative test thereafter,

(3) Screening with 14-day isolation of test-positives followed by a negative test,

(4) No screening of travellers but a 7-day mandatory quarantine for all,

(5) No screening but 14 days of quarantine and

(6) Screening of all passengers and entry prohibited for those testing positive.

(1) counterfactual=reference point

(2) 90.1% reduction

(3) 91.7% reduction

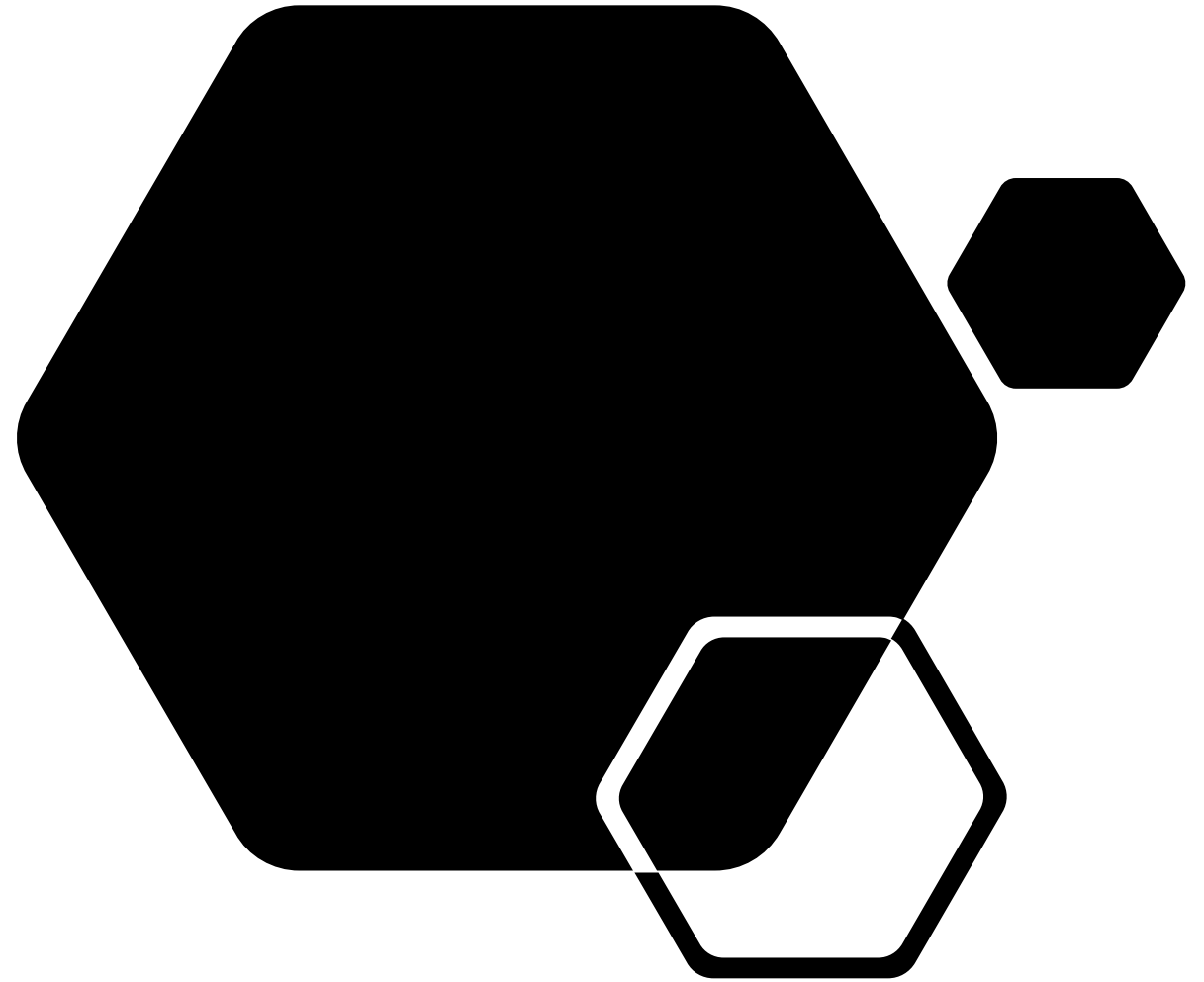
(4) 55.4% reduction

(5) 91.2% reduction

(6) 77.2% reduction



What does WHO  
say about travel  
bans and travel  
restrictions?

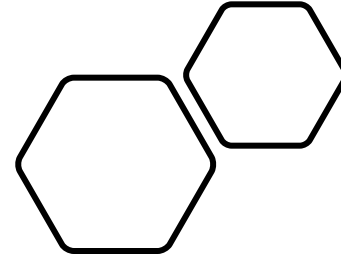


# Statement on the ninth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

26 October 2021 | Statement | Reading time: 6 min (1647 words)

6. **EXTENDED:** Continue a risk-based approach to facilitate international travel and share information with WHO on use of travel measures and their public health rationale. In accordance with the IHR, measures (e.g. masking, testing, isolation/quarantine, and vaccination) should be based on risk assessments, consider local circumstances, and avoid placing the financial burden on international travellers in accordance with Article 40 of the IHR. [Link to WHO guidance](#)
7. **EXTENDED:** Do NOT require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 for international travel as the only pathway or condition permitting international travel given limited global access and inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. State Parties should consider a risk-based approach to the facilitation of international travel by lifting or modifying measures, such as testing and/or quarantine requirements, when appropriate, in accordance with the WHO guidance. [Link to WHO interim position paper](#) and [Link to WHO guidance](#)

# What does Omicron mean for international travel?



Pre-departure testing and possibly even arrival testing (at day 2-3) for all travellers including vaccinated travellers, until we have more evidence on the impact on vaccines and the epidemic

No quarantine

No travel bans

# Why is it essential to coordinate COVID-19 measures?



Ensure freedom  
of movement



Increase transparency  
for citizens and businesses

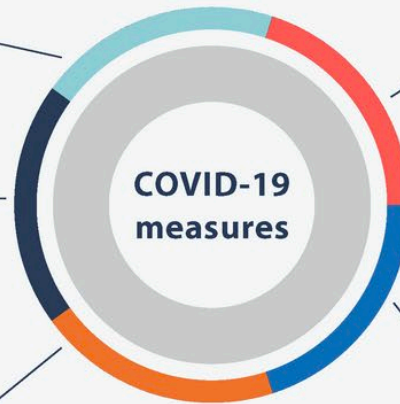


Avoid fragmentation  
and disruption of services

**Limited to public health  
protection**

**Proportionate**

**Non-discriminatory  
(e.g. on nationality)**



**Respect specificities of  
cross-border regions and  
geographically isolated  
areas**

**Lifted as soon as the  
epidemiological situation  
allows it**





## Introduction

17:00- 17.10

**Prof. Dr. Carmen Faso**, MCID Co-Chair

**Prof. Dr. med. Nicola Low** (Moderator)



## Speaker presentation

**17:15- Dr. Emma Hodcroft**, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“What is Omicron and how do we identify it?”

**17: 30- Prof. Dr. Volker Thiel**, Institute for Virology and Immunology, Vetsuisse, UniBern

“How is Omicron different from other variants?”

**17:45- PD Dr. Christian Althaus**, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“How well does Omicron spread compared to other variants?”

**18:00- Prof. Dr. med. Annelies Wilder-Smith**, Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, UniBern

“What does Omicron mean for international travel?”

**18:15- Prof. Dr. Joseph Francois**, World Trade Institute, UniBern

“Why and how does Omicron cause an international economic shock?”

## Panel discussion

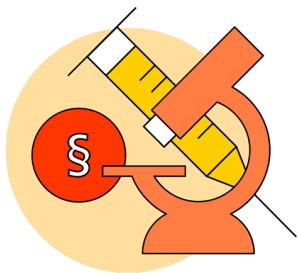
Including the speakers above, together with:

**Prof. Dr. Dr. Claus Beisbart**

Institute of Philosophy, UniBern

**PD Dr. med. Manuela Funke-Chambour**

Department for Biomedical Research, Inselspital



**u<sup>b</sup>**

**b**

**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

**Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious  
Diseases**

**MCID Bern**

[www.mcid.unibe.ch](http://www.mcid.unibe.ch)

