



LIVE

WATCH GRAND FINAL NIGHT ACTION GET UNDER WAY FOR FREE ON 9NOW HERE



AccessDeniedAccess

DeniedP54A77PSMPQTKYGPRb64YU6GDbT2cKWnRaYHVHBOZuBH2fzHOMNEPiSXHCiY//KY/c

News / National

# XEC, a new COVID variant, has emerged It may reach Australia in weeks



By Yashee Sharma | 3:56pm Sep 20, 2024



## Aussies caught up in Paris health scare



Aussies caught up in Paris health scare



Restaurants call to bring back dining vouchers



Minns welcomes Olympians, Paralympians home



Tweet



Facebook



Ma



Monash University epidemiology and preventive medicine Associate Professor James Trauer said two variants have combined to create XEC, which may become the new dominant type.

As case numbers rise, here is everything you need to know.

**READ MORE:** [Significant digital data in accused Russian spy case](#)

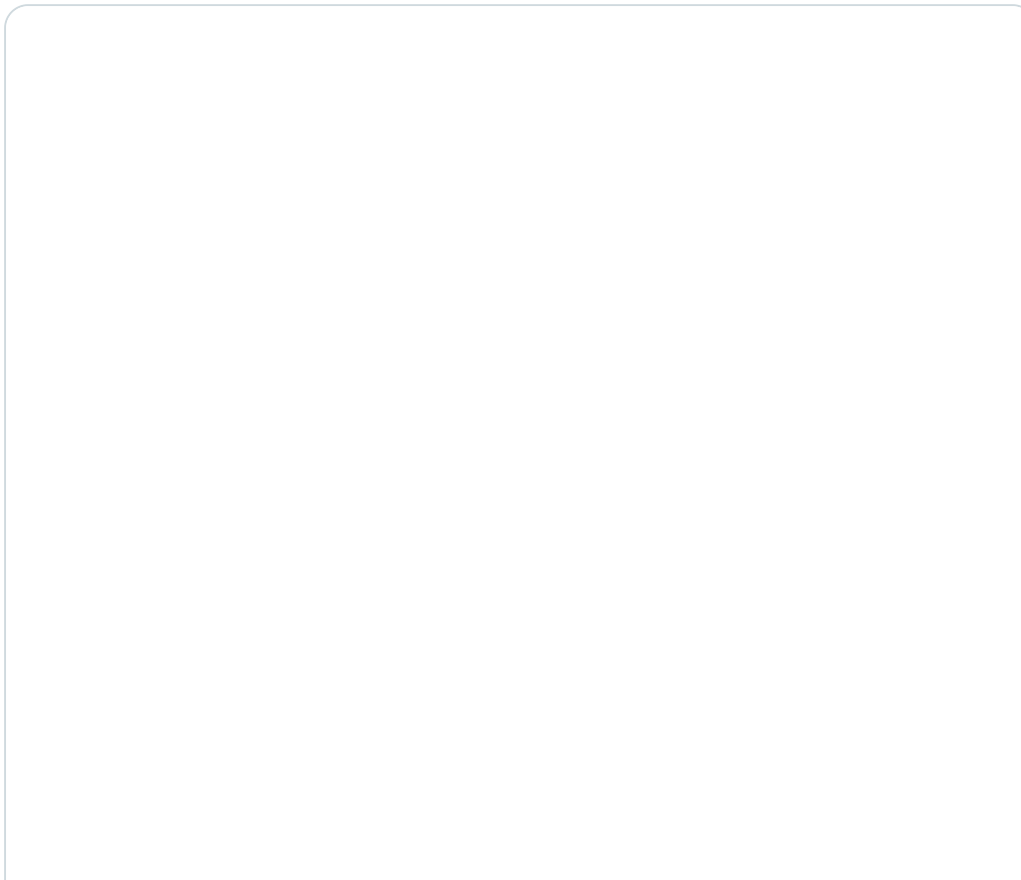




@Mike\_Honey\_ · [Follow](#)

Recombinant variant XEC is continuing to spread, and looks a likely next challenger against the now-dominant DeFLuQE variants (KP.3.1.1.\*).

Here are the leading countries reporting XEC. Strong growth in Denmark and Germany (16-17%), also the UK and Netherlands (11-13%).





317



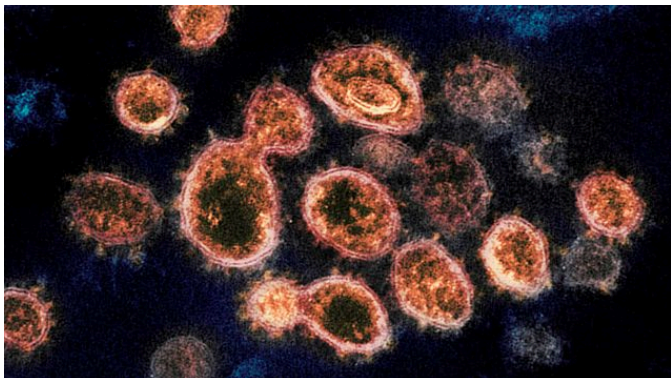
See the latest COVID-19 information on X

[Read 23 replies](#)

## What is the XEC COVID-19 variant?

XEC is a combination of two other variants, FLiRT and FLuQE, according to COVID-19 data analyst Mike Honey.

Trauer said it appears to have a fitness advantage over the two other variants and will likely overtake them as the dominant one.



The latest COVID-19 strain spreading across the world

[View Gallery](#)

## What are the symptoms?

Although still new, symptoms of the new variant are believed to be similar to those of its predecessors.



Trauer said until there are more cases, there isn't enough data to analyse whether there are any other symptoms to look out for.

**READ MORE:** [Alleged gang founder charged with smuggling \\$6 million of meth](#)



The new variant is likely to become the dominant strain of COVID-19. (Getty Images/iStockphoto)

## How widespread is it?

XEC was first identified in Berlin, Germany in June but cases have since spread according to Honey.



Trauer added an increase is being seen in the northern hemisphere as they head into winter.

**Mike Honey**@Mike\_Honey\_ · [Follow](#)

Recombinant variant XEC is continuing to spread very rapidly, and looks a likely next challenger against the now-dominant DeFLuQE variants (KP.3.1.1 and descendants).



8:46 PM · Aug 17, 2024



677

[See the latest COVID-19 information on X](#)[Read 20 replies](#)



No - or not yet.

Trauer said the variant may reach our borders as early as within the next few weeks.

"Anybody who is infected with COVID in Germany has a one in eight chance of it being this new variant and then they can get on a plane and come here," he said.

"There's every chance it will arrive here quite soon.

"Then I suppose the question is whether it will replace what we're currently seeing that's circulating here, which is likely.

"As long as its not associated with big new epidemic waves or increased severity, then we don't need to be very particularly worried about that."

**READ MORE:** ['Underwater tango': Rare footage shows grey nurse sharks courting](#)







Trauer said the variant may reach our borders as early as within the next few weeks. (Dion Georgopoulos/SMH)

## Is the new variant of COVID worse?

XEC may possess an advantage due to its unusual T22N mutation, according to Honey.

It is growing at 4.6 per cent per day, and 32 per cent per week.

The variant is spreading at particularly rapid rates in Denmark and Germany.

"This is still the fastest growth of any contender I am aware of," Honey said.

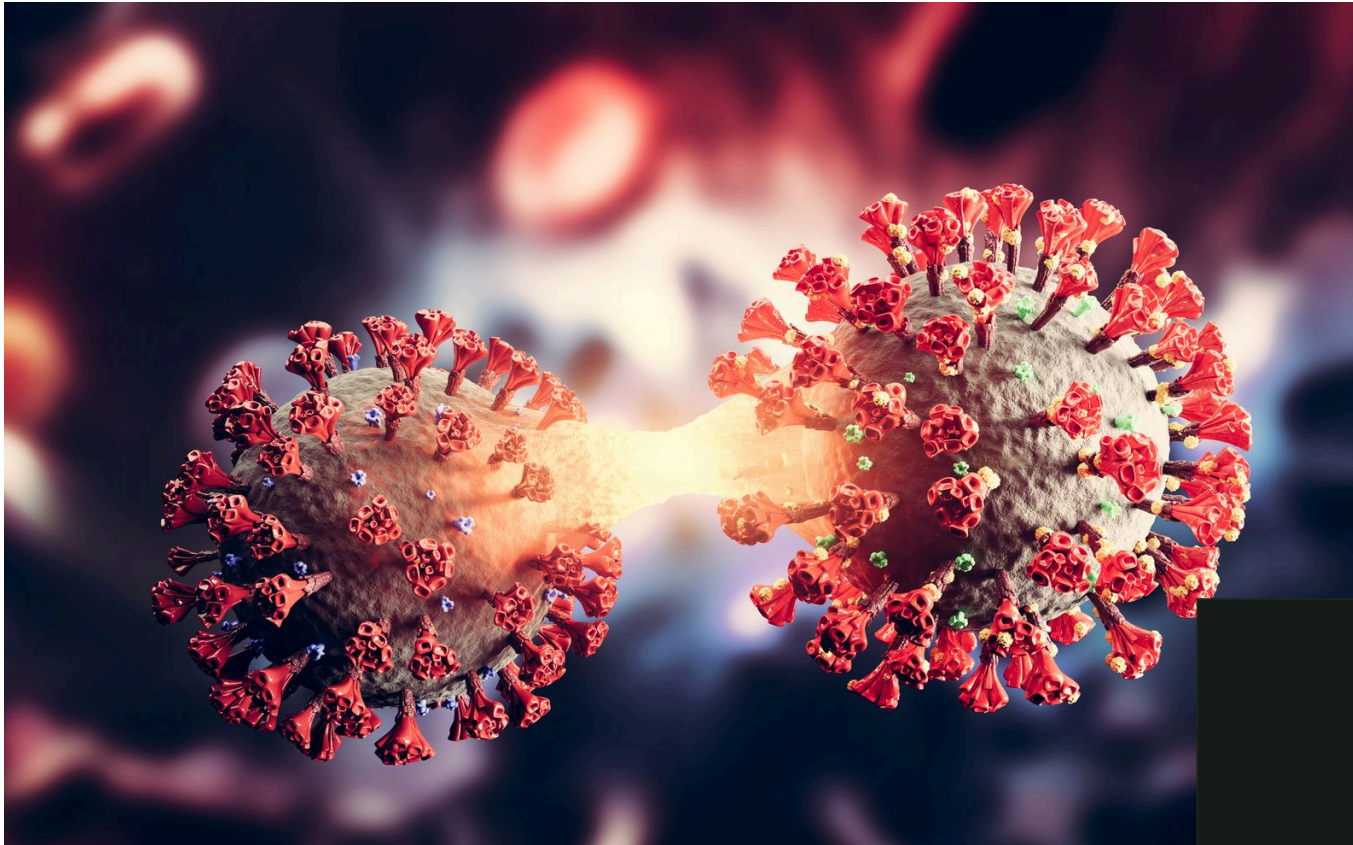
Symptoms-wise, it is too early to tell whether it is worse than previous variants.



would suggest it could be more severe," Trauer said.

"But for the last several variants, there hasn't been a signal like that."

**READ MORE:** [Fears feral deer will become 'Australia's next rabbit plague'](#)



The new variant will likely reach Australia within weeks. (Getty)

## Will the current COVID vaccines protect against XEC?

Trauer said the vaccine we have is reasonably well-matched to the new variant.



He added that people should follow the guidelines for their vaccine and booster shots.

"The guidelines are fairly clear if you're in a risk group, particularly if you're over 75, you should be getting a booster vaccine every six months," he said.

## How do I tell if I have COVID XEC?

The best way to tell if you have the new variant is to first check your symptoms and then do a rapid antigen test.

The Australian Health Department urges anyone who tests positive to not visit high-risk places like hospitals and aged and disability care settings for at least seven days, or until symptoms are gone.

This is in the instance the person infected is not seeking immediate medical care.

The department also recommends avoiding contact with people who are at higher risk of severe disease, like the elderly, wearing a mask, working from home where possible and practicing good hygiene.

"It's not like it once was ... it's more important to isolate when you actually have symptoms and think you're more likely to be infectious," Trauer said.

[COVID 19](#)[Australia](#)[National](#)[Health](#)[World](#)

✉ **CONTACT US** | Send your stories to [contact@9news.com.au](mailto:contact@9news.com.au)

**Property News:** Plans sprout to grow mushroom houses on the moon.



Try this  
Akusoli



moving to fixed  
income bonds, find...  
GIM Trading

Watch TV

- Live TV
- TV Shows
- Categories
- Connect your TV
- How to watch
- TV Guide

News

- Latest
- National
- World
- Politics
- Tech
- Weather
- Finance
- Today Show
- A Current Affair
- 60 Minutes

Sport

- Live Scores
- Olympics
- NRL
- Cricket
- Tennis
- AFL
- Rugby
- Football
- Athletics
- Golf
- Combat

Lifestyle


- Latest
- Royals
- Style
- Celebrity
- Kitchen
- Travel
- Coach
- You
- Parenting
- Money
- Horoscopes

Entertainment

- Latest
- TV Shows
- MAFS
- The Block
- Love Island

Product Reviews

- Technology
- Beauty
- Style + Fashion
- Living
- Kitchen



5AW

4BC

6PR

MOVIES

Sport

Stan Originals

Property Search

Home Loans

Home Price Guide

9NEWS

Car News

New Car Showroom

Cars for Sale

Connect with us 

news

Online

Television

Search 

eday

Amazon

Nike



Home

Newsletters

Work with us

Advertise with us

Support

Terms of use

Privacy

© 2024 Nine Entertainment Co.

