SUMMARY

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“How the omicron variant unsettled the world in just one week: A visual timeline” written by Ruby Mellen is a piece that outlines the severity of this new variant (Omicron), visualizing its rampage within a week. As of now it’s been located in nearly 20 nations within the brief span of a week. Initiating at Thursday, the South African Health minister announced the new coronavirus variant. With over 50 mutations, it was made clear that Omicron wasn’t to be taken lightly as it was predicted to be immune to vaccines. Panic rose as the next day the WHO named this a “variant of concern”. This inevitably led to world-wide travel bans on South Africa and the regions in close proximity to it. Despite these measures it soon spread out into several other countries across the world and therefore plummeted markets. By Saturday, countries like Australia took part in the imposed travel bans. Holland Soon reported 13 new omicron cases from a batch of 600 incoming passengers through flights from South Africa. As Sunday approached the South African presidents labelled the travel bans “unjustified”. His stance being that the bans will only further hurt economies and not affect the virus. With cases springing up in Canada, the vaccine producer Moderna announced its initiative against the new variant. This however was commented on by Fidler from the Council of foreign relations that feared that the new vaccines would bring previous controversies to light. As tensions rose Us president Biden spoke up as on Monday he announced that there was no need to panic and urged the use of vaccines. And as of Tuesday, a lack of knowledge on this variant continues to raise eyebrows with scientists declaring that the severity of the variant is still undetermined and shall take time.