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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.3.2021)

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has produced on 29 December 2020¹ and on 21 January 2021² Rapid Risk Assessments on the variant of concern identified in the United Kingdom, as well as the South African and Brazilian strains.

These documents include information on transmissibility, severity and mortality of the new coronavirus strains. Initial assessment indicates that the United Kingdom identified variant presents increased transmissibility which has contributed to increases in incidence, while there is currently no indication that infections with the United Kingdom variant are associated with more severe clinical presentation than pre-existing strains.

¹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-risk-related-to-spread-of-new-SARS-CoV-2-variants-EU-EEA.pdf>

² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-risk-related-to-spread-of-new-SARS-CoV-2-variants-EU-EEA-first-update.pdf>