

# Canada's first case of Brazilian virus strain detected

8 February 2021



It has already been spotted in Europe, as well as Colombia and the United States.

Toronto [health authorities](#) have now detected 27 confirmed "variant of concern" cases in the city of about 3 million people.

Canada, with a population of more than 38 million, has recorded more than 800,000 coronavirus cases and more than 20,000 deaths.

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Health authorities in Toronto announced Sunday that a resident had been diagnosed with the Brazilian variant of COVID-19, marking Canada's first known case of the mutated virus.

The patient has been hospitalized, Toronto Public Health (TPH) said in a statement. He had recently traveled from Brazil.

TPH also said it had found the first case of the South African coronavirus variant in Canada's largest city, though the strain had previously been detected elsewhere in the country.

"Scientists and [medical professionals](#) are concerned that these variants are more transmissible than the original coronavirus," TPH said.

The resident with the South African strain had no recent travel history and no known contact with any recently returned travelers, TPH added.

The Brazilian variant has been blamed for a disastrous surge in infections in the Brazilian city of Manaus.

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