BY THE NUMBERS

ARRIVAL OF A NEW VARIANT

With the emergence of the Omicron variant, a global fourth wave of Covid seems likely

Daily new confirmed Covid cases per million people
7-day rolling average

What may happen next...
Estimated case numbers assuming fourth wave has a similar pattern and new variant
7-day moving average of daily cases

President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday SA has had a sharp rise in new cases – an average of 1,600 new cases in the past seven days, compared with 500 daily new cases in the previous week and 275 the week before

Test positivity has increased from 2% to 9% in less than a week. Prof Salim Abdool Karim, director of the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in SA (Caprista), expects a surge of more than 10,000 new cases per day by the end of the week

Scientists are investigating the efficacy of vaccines against the new variant, but a decrease in their efficacy is expected based on experience with previous variants

Source: Cape Town department of Health