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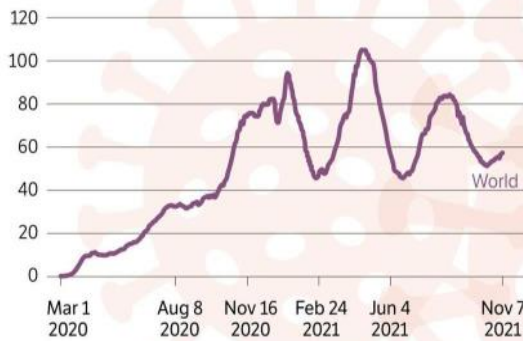


BY THE NUMBERS

ARRIVAL OF A NEW VARIANT

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

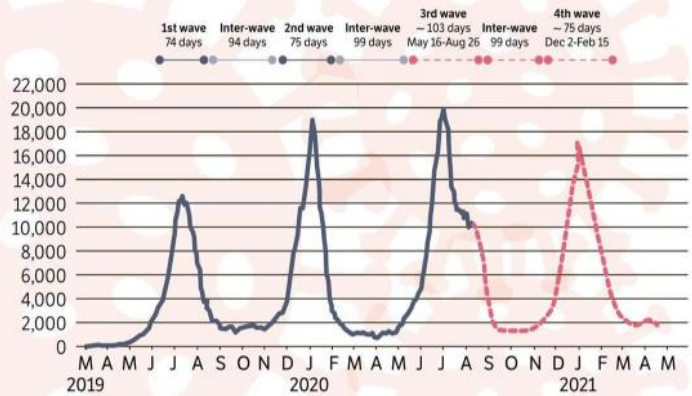
Daily new confirmed Covid cases per million people
7-day rolling average



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

What may happen next...

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



New variant and other factors may change epidemic trajectory. These estimations are based on several assumptions and not on mathematical modelling

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 (Caprisa), 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: Caprisa, department of health