On 26 November 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529, named Omicron, a variant of concern on the advice of WHO’s Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE). Since the Omicron variant was designated, new countries, territories or areas (C/T/As) have implemented more stringent mobility restrictions for individuals. The map below shows the international air travel connections that are currently suspended.

**Overview of flight suspensions worldwide**

**Direct connections affected**

**Overview of flight suspensions over time**

**Number of C/T/As issuing flight suspensions**

**Timeline:**

**18 December 2020:** The Alpha and Beta variants were designated and soon after the designation, 35 C/T/As issued new flight suspensions on international flights.

**11 May 2021:** The Delta variant was designated, this time the number of C/T/As issuing flight suspensions fluctuated until early June, and then it started decreasing until the Omicron variant was designated.

**26 November 2021:** The Omicron variant was designated and in over two weeks, 19 C/T/As (*) issued new flight suspensions.

(*) Angola, Australia, Austria, Caribbean Netherlands, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Poland, Portugal, Réunion, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Equatorial Guinea.
After the Alpha and Beta variants were designated on 18 December 2021, flight suspensions to/from specific C/T/As were issued —specially those where the variants were first documented. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland received the most flight suspensions, followed by a group of South African C/T/As. The designation of the Delta variant on 11 May 2021 had less of an impact on flight suspensions. When the Omicron variant was designated on 26 November 2021, routes to/from South Africa were more affected than any other C/T/A in the region, with flight suspensions being issued by 37 C/T/As as of 13 December 2021.

The horizontal axis represents C/T/As issuing flight suspensions, whereas the vertical axis represents the top 30 countries receiving flight suspensions. Southern African C/T/As are the most affected by flight suspensions. Namely, flights from/to South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe are suspended by more than 30 countries. On the other hand, 6 C/T/As (American Samoa, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Equatorial Guinea, and Turkmenistan) have cancelled all international flight connections. Since the previous update on 6 December 2021, Equatorial Guinea has cancelled flights to/from all C/T/As.