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

Connections suspended

Connections not suspended

**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 3 weeks later 18 C/T/As (*) issued new flight suspensions. Since the previous update on 13 December 2021, only Republic of Korea has issued new flight suspensions whereas 5 C/T/As (**) lifted flight suspensions.

(*) Uzbekistan, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Turkey, Australia, Egypt, Italy, Slovak Republic, Angola, Spain, Réunion, Caribbean Netherlands, Austria, Jordan, Rwanda, Portugal, Poland, and Malta.

(**) Australia, Angola, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Malta.
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 32 C/T/As as of 20 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 28 C/T/As. On the other hand, 7 C/T/As (American Samoa, India, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Equatorial Guinea, Turkmenistan, and Morocco) have cancelled all international flight connections.

The matrix below indicates the number of C/T/As receiving and issuing flight suspensions. Eswatini, Namibia, Lesotho, Ethiopia, and Damascus are suspended by more than 20 C/T/As, whereas India, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Myanmar are suspended by more than 10 C/T/As. The country with the highest number of suspensions is South Africa, with 28 C/T/As.

The map below shows the number of C/T/As receiving flight suspensions worldwide. The color scale represents the number of suspensions per country, ranging from 0 to 30. The map highlights the countries with the highest number of suspensions, with South Africa being the most affected.