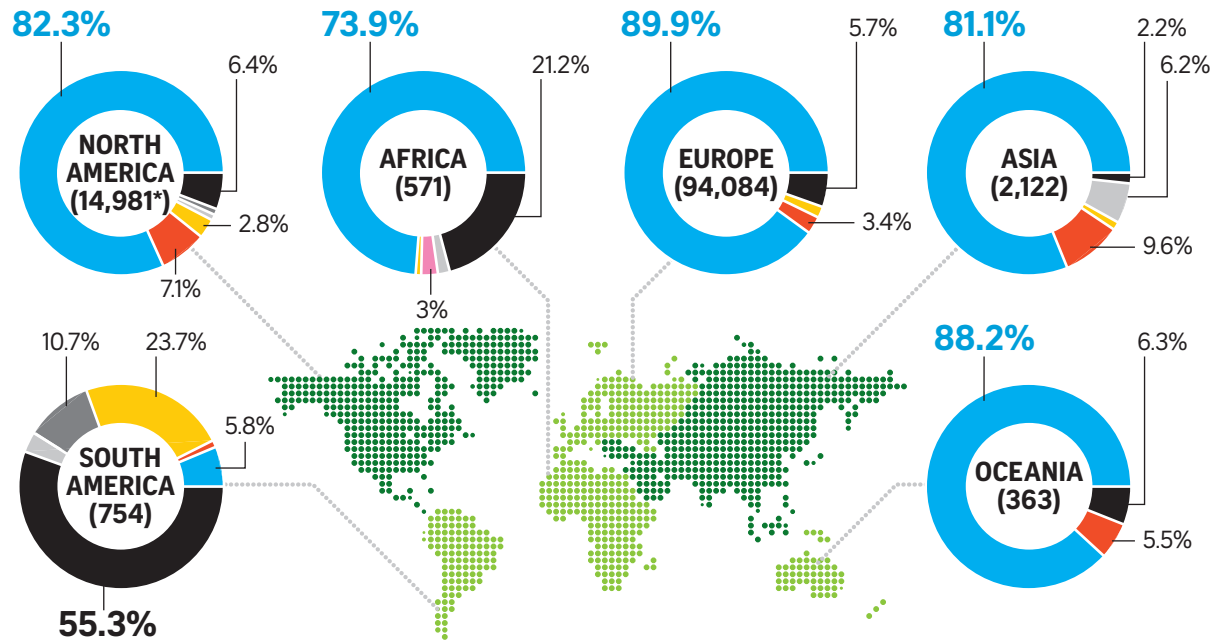


Delta variant dominates global Covid-19 infections



NOTE: *Denotes the number of sequences submitted. Variant sequences collected between June 28 and July 27 this year by GISAID, a global science initiative which has the largest number of Covid-19 sequences.

Under the World Health Organisation classification, there are currently four variants of concern. A VOC has to fulfil one of the following:

Increased transmissibility or **Increased virulence** or **Reduced effectiveness of vaccines and treatments**

- Since around April, the **Delta variant** has spread more quickly and overtaken the other VOCs – that is, Alpha, Beta and Gamma – to dominate infections in most parts of the world.
- The exception is South America, where **Gamma remains strong**, although its share of infections has gone down from more than 60 per cent over a two-week period.

- In Singapore, Delta accounts for **98 per cent of all infections**, including imported ones.
- There are also currently **four VOIs** which have the potential to become VOCs. They are **Eta, Iota, Kappa and Lambda**.