



# Genomic surveillance report

Update for Belgium, 26/07/2022

**Lies Laenen, Lize Cuypers, Guy Baele, Simon Dellicour, Piet Maes, Emmanuel André**

See page 2 for full list of authors and participating laboratories

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*This report was written in collaboration with:*

*Reile Janssen, Louis Nevejan, Tom Wenseleers, Bram Slechten, Johan Van Weyenbergh, Els Keyaerts, Joren Raymenants, Barney Potter, Elke Wollants, Marc Van Ranst and the Belgian Sequencing Consortium.*

*Corresponding author: [lies.laenen@uzleuven.be](mailto:lies.laenen@uzleuven.be) (National Reference Center for Coronaviruses, UZ Leuven)*

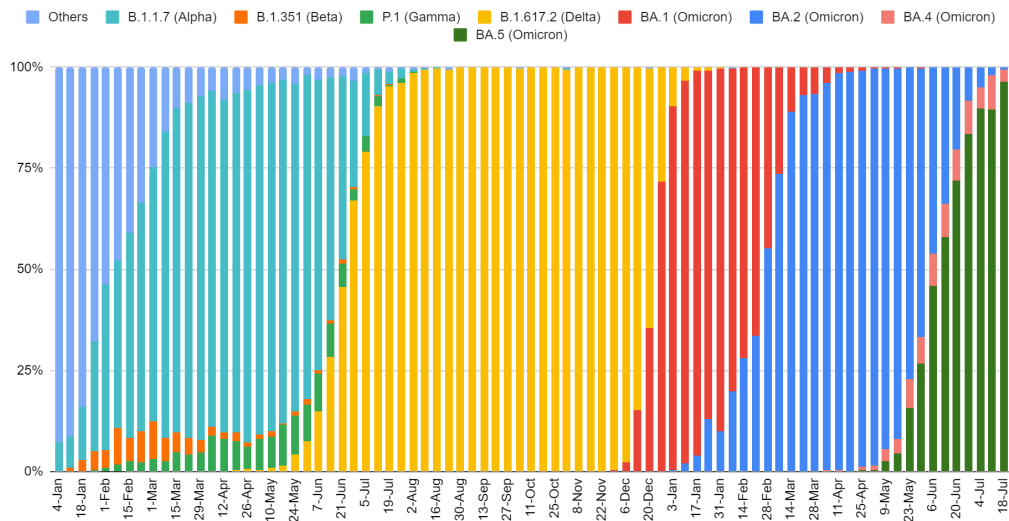
*Belgian Sequencing Consortium:*

*Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Centre Hospitalier CHU UCL Namur, ULB, UMon, UNamur, ULiège, UGent, UZA/UAntwerpen, Jessa ZH, AZ Delta, AZ Klina, IPG, AZ St Lucas Gent, OLVZ Aalst, Briant network, ZNA, AZ St Jan Brugge, UZ Brussel, LHUB-ULB, UZ Leuven/KU Leuven and Sciensano HealthData.*

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## Executive summary

Omicron BA.5 is now the dominant lineage in Belgium and accounts for around 90% of the most recent infections. The epidemic resurgence associated with this viral shift seems to have reached a peak, as highlighted by a decreasing number of infections ( $R_t < 1$ ) and a decreasing test positivity rate (32%). Hospital admissions are currently stable.

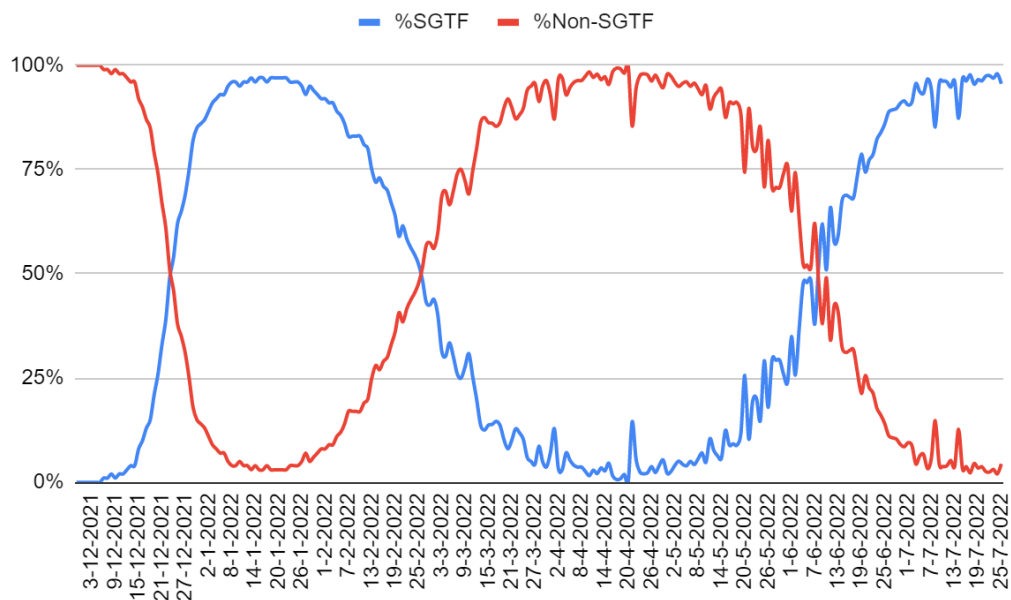


Currently, we have limited evidence that BA.2.75 could outpace BA.5, as it seems to have a discreet transmission advantage against the latter. For now, no BA.2.75 samples have been identified in Belgium through our genomic surveillance program.

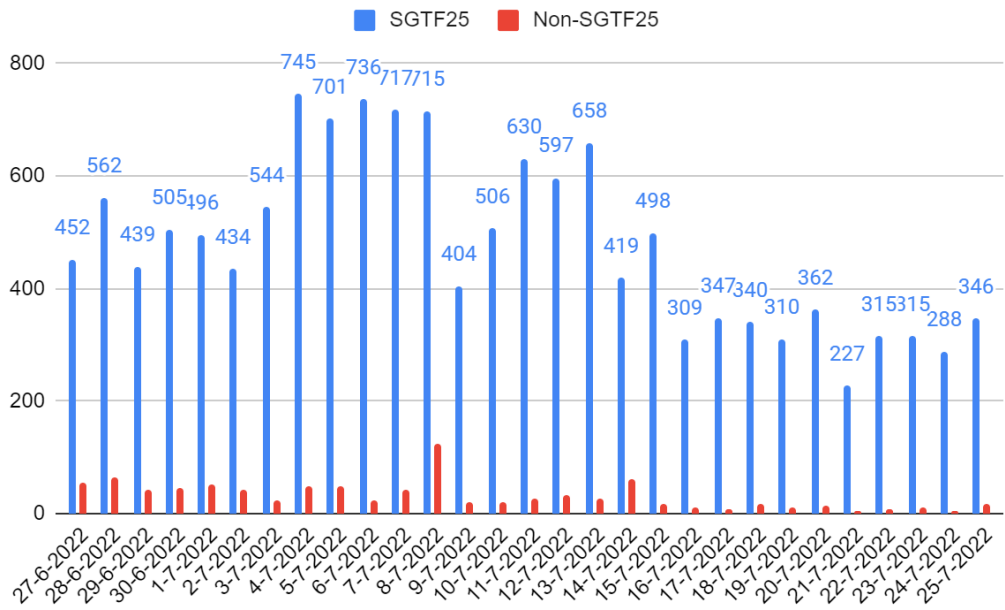
# 1 Epidemiological context and indicators related to diagnostic activities

Omicron BA.2 and BA.2.75 can be distinguished from BA.4 and BA.5 using as the latter variants present a deletion 69/70 in the Spike gene (S gene target failure, SGTF).

At this stage, SGTF samples (BA.5 and BA.4) represent 96-98% of the most recent samples analyzed (Figure 1).



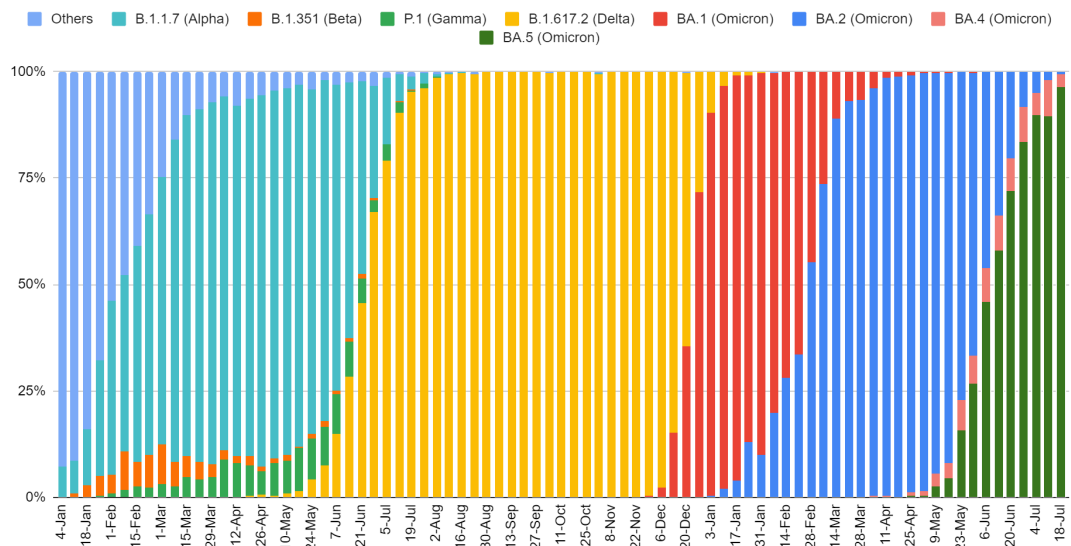
**Figure 1:** S gene target failure (SGTF, in blue: BA.4 and BA.5) and others (red: currently considered predominantly BA.2, but also possibly BA.2.75) among positive samples reported by the federal platform laboratories.



**Figure 2:** S gene target failure (SGTF, in blue: BA.4 and BA.5) and others (red: currently considered predominantly BA.2, but also possibly BA.2.75) among positive samples reported by the federal platform laboratories.

## 2 Monitoring of Variants of Concern in Belgium

During the last two weeks of baseline surveillance - 11/07/2022 to 24/07/2022 - (525 sequences collected at this stage), BA.5 represented 91%, BA.4 represented 7% and BA.2 represented 2%. No BA.2.75 have been identified at this stage. In the meantime, we keep monitoring the situation abroad and state of knowledge regarding the emergence and spread of BA.2.75 (currently classified as a variant of interest by the ECDC).



**Figure 3:** Share of variants of concern per week in Belgium since January 2021