

Omicron now dominant strain in Denmark: minister

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The highly transmissible Omicron variant is now dominant in Denmark, which on Tuesday set a new record for daily COVID-19 infections, the health minister said.

"The Institute of Public Health now considers Omicron to be the

dominant variant and climbing" a month after first being detected in the Nordic country, Magnus Heunicke tweeted.

A record 13,558 new cases in 24 hours were registered in the nation of 5.8 million people. At least 500 of the cases were people who had already had COVID-19.

Faced with surging cases, Denmark—which sequences more samples than many other countries—on Sunday shut cinemas, theatres and [concert halls](#) and has restricted restaurant opening hours. The measures are due to last at least four weeks.

It marked a sharp turnaround for a country that had lifted all restrictions on September 10, before reintroducing a coronapass at the beginning of November then announcing a first round of restrictions last week.

Dealing with new [record](#) numbers on a daily basis, the government has accelerated the rollout of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines, authorised an anti-COVID pill treatment by US drugmaker Merck for serious cases and started vaccinations of children aged five to 11.

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