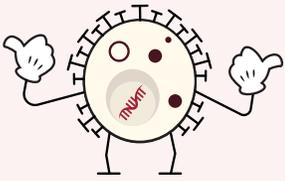


COVID-19 Variants, Vaccine Effectiveness & What you need to know.

Meet the Variants



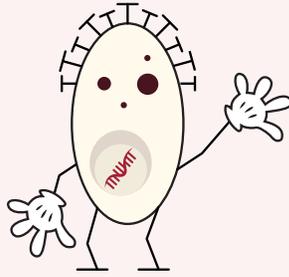
B.1.1.7 Variant

Discovered in the United Kingdom

Mutated 17 times off the viral spike protein that binds to cell receptors in humans, which allows it to be more transmissible.

What makes this a variant of concern?

Spreads 50% more easily and replicates more quickly.



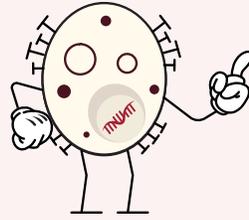
B.1.351 Variant

Discovered in South Africa

Has mutations on the receptor binding domain, making it harder for antibodies to bind and neutralize them.

What makes this a variant of concern?

These will alter the shape of the receptor binding domain, therefore it "disguises" itself from our immune system.



What are variants?

Variants happen when a virus has developed a specific group of mutations that causes it to behave differently than the strain it came from.

P.1 Variant

Discovered in Brazil

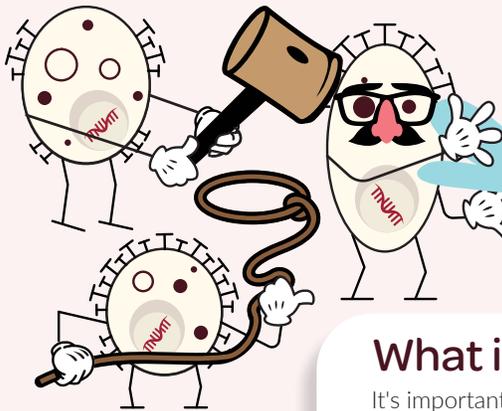
Has 17 unique mutations, including three in the receptor binding domain of the spike protein.

What makes this a variant of concern?

Better at evading our immune system.

Do the Vaccines Work?

Based on recent scientific studies, there is evidence showing **the vaccines are effective against the new variants**. However, these are early results and not all variants have been studied.



Variants are taking over in Ontario

The emerging variants are quickly becoming the dominant strain in Ontario.

In **February**, the variants were found only in a small number of COVID-19 cases tested. By late-March, the variants of concern represent **68%** of new COVID-19 cases in Ontario. It only took about **2 months** for the variants to become the leading strain of **positive cases**.

What if I am still waiting to be vaccinated?

It's important to follow the same public health precautions. Even though your risk of getting COVID-19 has been reduced by being vaccinated, you still play an important role in helping to stop community transmission by:

- Washing your hands
- Wearing a mask
- Avoiding non-essential trips
- Staying home if you are feeling ill or have flu-like symptoms
- Avoid gatherings and keeping social distance

What's the difference between Efficacy and Effectiveness?

Efficacy describes how well the vaccines work in preventing new cases and severe outcomes under ideal trial conditions, where study participants are closely matched to people who are like them.

Effectiveness describes how well the vaccines work in the real world. Scientists will compare outcomes in vaccinated to unvaccinated people as they go about their daily lives.

To find out more, follow the link in the QR code.



COVID-19 Immunity Study.ca
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