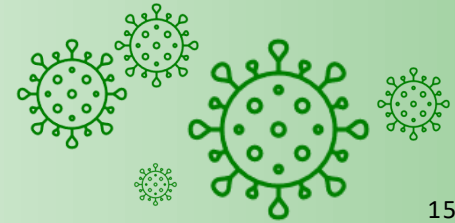




COVID CORNER

Exploring the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our lives



15 July 2022

COVID-19 variants

Why do we keep seeing new variants?

Viruses are microscopic biological microbes that infect all life forms, including animals, plants and other microorganisms like bacteria. They cannot survive and reproduce outside their host.

Like all living things, viruses go through mutations in order to increase their survival advantage. These mutations give rise to new variants of that virus.

Why are variants so dangerous?

With each variant comes the possibility that the COVID-19 virus has learned how to make itself more transmissible and/or to evade acquired immunity in people and/or cause more severe symptoms.

In the early days of the pandemic, reinfections were reported as rare. But as the COVID-19 virus continues to mutate, reinfection is becoming more common.

Will there be more COVID-19 variants?

Yes. As long as COVID-19 continues to spread through the world's population, it will continue to mutate and more variants will evolve.

Will our vaccines continue to protect us?

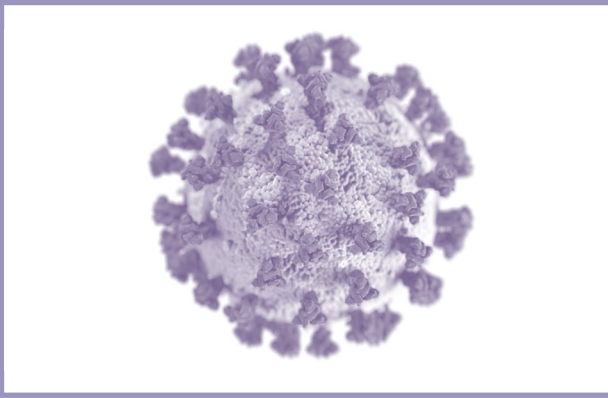
Yes. Experts believe that vaccines should continue to offer protection from severe disease and death. While people who are fully vaccinated can get breakthrough infections, the vaccines remain effective at preventing severe illness.

Researchers continue to update current vaccines and develop new ones.

Why is global vaccination so important?

It remains extremely important that all countries continue to vaccinate as much of their population as possible, and that people who have been vaccinated have their booster shots. As well as protecting individuals from severe disease, vaccination is an essential tool to help stop the pandemic.

The greater the percentage of the population vaccinated, the less the virus will be able to mutate and spread. While we may never be able to eliminate the COVID-19 virus completely, vaccination could help us shift COVID from pandemic to endemic—putting it into the same category as influenza (the 'flu).



Fast Facts

- All viruses mutate to increase their survival advantage. This gives rise to variants.
- There will be more COVID-19 variants as long as it continues to spread through the world's population.
- The vaccines continue to protect against severe disease and death.
- Vaccination is an essential tool to fight against the virus and help shift COVID from pandemic to endemic.

Want to find out more?

What is a virus?

<https://theconversation.com/what-is-a-virus-how-do-they-spread-how-do-they-make-us-sick-133437>

COVID variants—what you should know:

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/a-new-strain-of-coronavirus-what-you-should-know>

Ending the COVID pandemic:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/28/how-covid-vaccines-for-kids-under-5-can-help-end-the-pandemic-experts.html>

Ask Dr M

Do you still have questions?

Call us on

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or WhatsApp

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Protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 with the two Vs:



Vaccination



Ventilation

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