

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Variants Resources & Links

This is a relatively long list of links on COVID-19 Variants and includes resources from governmental health agencies (CDC, PHAC, and WHO), medical news reports, and "regular" media reports. The government & medical news info is essential, but sometimes the general news reports that we all have access to provides a more readable set of facts (and sometimes, opinion) and tries to answer the questions that we have a little faster than government reporting may be able to do. This list is so expansive because readers are looking for different amounts of information on the subject and prefer that info offered at a variety of depths. I apologize for the ads that are embedded in the non-governmental articles but felt the benefit of the info outweighed the annoyance of the ads. In particular, for those trying to really get their heads around the start of the COVID virus and mutations and variants, *The Atlantic* article, written by a physician-staff writer and author, is a good read. It offers an excellent outline of what has already happened and what might be expected to happen going forward.

Although viral variants are not unexpected, especially with the numbers of people infected world-wide and the longer-than-a-year timeline this virus has been in the population, it is essential that everyone have a decent understanding of what can cause the variants, what a variant in the population means (or can mean), and why it is so important to find them, and how to control the virus and the variants. Controlling the virus in the US and in some other countries has been difficult since many in the population refuse to use, or properly use, recommended countermeasures. These resources explain why that only adds to the risk of the variants and lengthening the Pandemic or even making COVID part of life going forward, much like the Flu but potentially without seasons.

Green Highlighting marks those resources that may be particularly helpful in providing an overall look at COVID Variants.

Governmental Resources:

C-SPAN Clips of Dr. Fauci (NIAID Director) Explaining COVID-19 Variants:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4940577/us-step-surveillance-covid-variants-ramps-vaccinations-dr-fauci>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4940561/user-clip-fauci-mutant-covid>

CDC – COVID-19 Variants -- An official inclusion of a circulating variant will often trail local & state reports from health departments, universities doing genetic sequencing, and the news media as confirmation is made by the CDC; the CDC is looking not only at a sample(s) of a sequencing change (aka a mutation) but are also looking at the likely origin of the mutation, whether it is persisting, what the effects on the virus are, and whether vaccines and other countermeasures remain effective:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

CDC – More Complete Info on All the Currently Known Circulating Variants in the World: (same caution applies): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/science-and-research/scientific-brief-emerging-variants.html>

CDC – Interactive US Map of the States & Territories with COVID-19 Variant Cases : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>

CDC – Summary Brief on the UK Variant Recently ID'd in CO and CA in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-emerging-variant.html>

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) – Monitoring for COVID Variants in Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a8>

PHAC – Statement on COVID Variants Identified in Ontario & Explanation on Canada's Public Health Monitoring for Variants: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/statement-on-the-variants-of-covid-19-virus-found-in-ontario.html>

WHO – Global Scientists at Research Meeting Suggests More Widespread COVID-19 Genomic Sequencing Necessary for ID & Control of the Virus: <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-01-2021-global-scientists-double-down-on-sars-cov-2-variants-research-at-who-hosted-forum>

Medical & General News Resources:

The Atlantic – M.D. Explains Concerns about Variants & How They Affect the Pandemic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2021/01/coronavirus-mutations-variants/617694/>

The New Yorker – A Review in General, & Specifically for COVID-19, of Viruses Including Variants & their Impact: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/can-the-covid-19-vaccine-beat-the-proliferation-of-new-virus-mutations>

Vox Article on COVID Virus Mutations and the Virus Variants they Cause: <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/22192061/mutant-coronavirus-covid-19-uk-mutation-vaccine>

BBC – Explanation about SARS-CoV-2 (causing COVID-19) Variants and Mutations: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55404988>

Medscape – Pfizer Vaccine Appears to Work Against the UK & So. Africa Variants: https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/943834?src=mkm_covid_update_210108_MSCPEDIT&uac=369824CZ&impID=2949005&faf=1

Medscape – FDA Warns that of False Negative COVID Tests with Virus Variants:
https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/943845?src=mkc_covid_update_210108_MSCPEDIT&uac=369824CZ&impID=2949005&faf=1

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Pub. Health – COVID -19 Variants FAQs (including link to a Podcast on the subject):
<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid19-variants.html>

Illinois Department of Health – FAQs on COVID-19 Variants:
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/faq/new-variant>

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) – UK COVID Variant in Ontario:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/coronavirus-variant-ontario-info-1.5855396>

STAT -- COVID-19 UK Variant Now in the US:
<https://www.statnews.com/2020/12/21/looming-questions-new-variant-coronavirus/>

STAT – COVID-19 South African & Brazilian Variants:
<https://www.statnews.com/2021/01/07/coronavirus-mutation-vaccine-strength/>

Santa Clara Co. Public Health EOC – Press Rel. on California Variant Cases Seen:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/press-release-01-17-2021-COVID-19-variant-more-frequent-in-CA.aspx>

LA Times – More Info on the New Variant Found in Multiple Counties & the CA State Epidemiologist Announces Increased Adverse Events at 1 Vaccination site:
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-17/covid-19-coronavirus-vaccine-update-pandemic>

Ohio State Univ Wexner Med. School ID'd a New Strain of COVID-19 Mutation:
<https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/mediaroom/pressreleaselisting/new-sars-cov2-variant>

Medscape – Article on COVID-19 Variants Spreading around the World:
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/943559>

AAAS - Science – COVID-19 Variants Could Allow More Reinfections/Need Updated Vaccines: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/01/new-coronavirus-variants-could-cause-more-reinfections-require-updated-vaccines>

Medscape – Article on a US version of COVID-19 Variant, Suggested by White House Task Force, Denied by CDC Scientists:
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/943896>