



COVID-19

Variants and Genomic Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2

Updated Apr. 2, 2021

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Variant Proportions

Proportions of variants of concern and variants of interest in the US.

Genomic Surveillance

[About Genomic Surveillance](#)



[SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#)



[Sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 \(SPHERES\)](#)



[Published COVID-19 Sequences](#)



What is a variant?

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.

[About Variants of the Virus](#)

Delta Variant

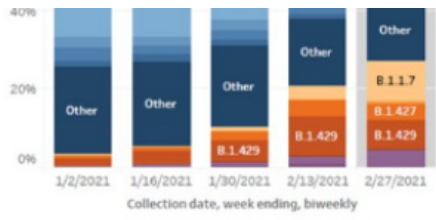
The Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19. It might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people.

- Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, including against this variant.
- Fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections from this variant appear to be infectious for a shorter period.
- Get vaccinated and wear masks indoors in public spaces to reduce the spread of this variant.

[About the Delta Variant](#)

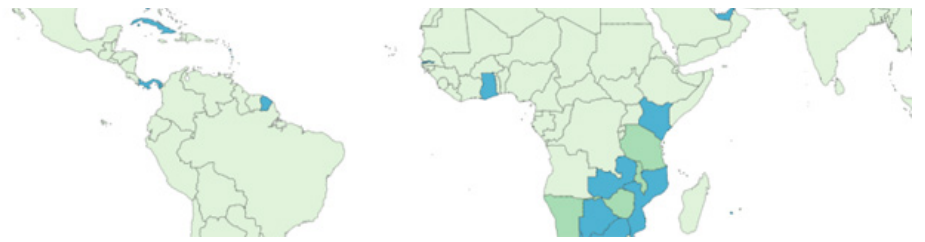
[Variants in the US](#)





Variant Proportions in the U.S.

[View data showing proportions of Variants of Concern](#)



Global Variant Reports

[View a global map showing reports of variants in each](#)

Research and Selected Publications

- [MMWR: First Identified Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Variant B.1.1.7 in Minnesota — December 2020–January 2021](#) >
- [MMWR: Detection of B.1.351 SARS-CoV-2 Variant Strain — Zambia, December 2020](#) >
- [MMWR: Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Lineage — United States, December 29, 2020–January 12, 2021](#) >
- [Science Brief: Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#) >

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