

## COVID-19 Variants

### ? What are COVID-19 variants?

COVID-19 is a virus. Viruses change all the time. It is common for this to happen with a virus. For example, the flu is a virus and it changes each year. A virus looks like a ball with spikes coming out of it.

There is more than one kind of COVID-19. The different kinds are called variants. They are a little the same and a little different. Scientists watch for changes in the virus, like changes in spikes. More than one kind of COVID-19 is going around the world. You might have heard in the news people talking about the Delta Variant in the United States.

### ? Why do COVID-19 variants, like the Delta Variant, matter?

It is important to know about COVID-19 variants. Some kinds of COVID-19 are easier to get. Some kinds of COVID can make people more sick than others.

The Delta Variant of COVID-19 can spread from person to person very easily. It is spreading quickly across the country. People who did not get a vaccine are getting sick.

### ? Am I protected from the Delta Variant and other COVID-19 variants if I get the vaccine?

For now, the three kinds of vaccines we have can protect us from getting very sick from the different kinds of COVID-19. Scientists are learning if we need a booster, or extra shot to keep us safe over time.

Some people who have a weak immune system need their booster shot now to keep their body protected. Your immune system is the parts of your body that keep you from getting sick. For example, people who have cancer might have a weak immune system.

Most people, who do NOT have a weak immune system, could need a booster shot 8 months after their second shot. Talk to your doctor to find out if you have a problem with your immune system and should get your booster shot now.

If you are worried about COVID-19 variants, you can talk to a trusted doctor. Please get a vaccine. It is important to get a vaccine to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 variants.