

Dear Team,

News about the latest coronavirus variant i.e. "Omicron" is going viral! We have a lot of information bombarding us, and most of it is suspect. We constantly need to be on the alert for misinformation and disinformation, with many conspiracy theories raging across social media.

As the majority of us are not actually virologists or epidemiologists, we simply need to understand that viruses mutate. This is normal for viruses. It is a part of how they evolve to survive. They can mutate slowly or they can mutate fast. In technical terms, we are more concerned about fast mutations (antigenic shift) than about slow mutations (antigenic drift).

Further, the medical community likes to look at these mutations resulting in (a) Variants of Interest (b) Variants of Concern (c) Variants of Consequence. Thankfully, at present we have many Variants of Interest, a few Variants of Concern and none of Consequence. Scientists get to know about all of this through genomic sequencing from samples collected all across the country and the world. There is a collaborative network of laboratories across the world who are all monitoring this and sharing real-time information.

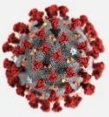
Bottomline

*Do not worry about the Delta or the Omicron Variants! **Get Vaccinated in your turn. Don't Hesitate.*** Keep in mind that preventive measures even for Omicron variant remains the same, i.e. consistent **COVID**

Appropriate Behaviour.

Please do share the following info sheet with your family, friends and colleagues. And do suitably translate and convey verbally to those around you who will benefit from it.

Stay safe!

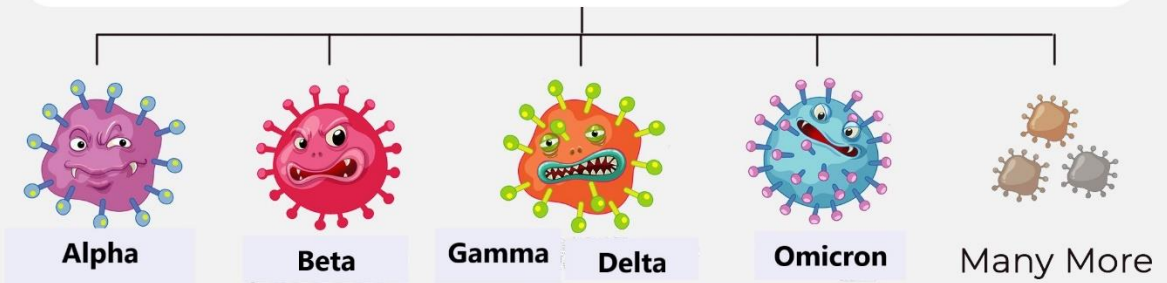


“We know all about the Coronavirus!”

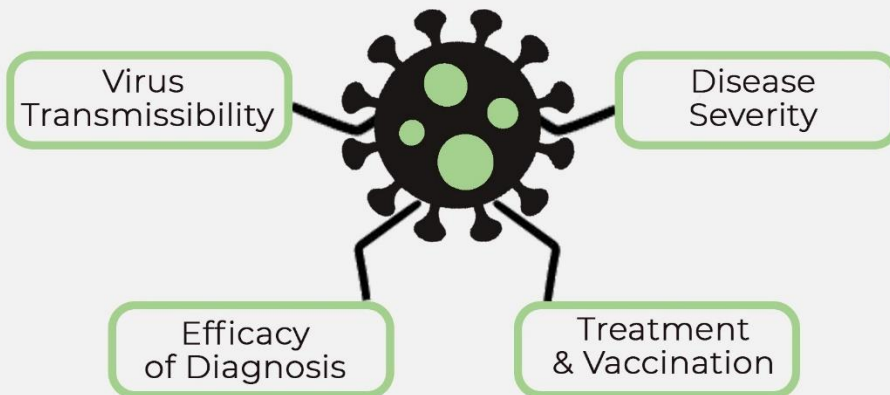
Do we? 🤔

Mutations result in Variants

It is natural for a virus to evolve over time
Variants of Concern are the mutations we should be wary of



Variants have an impact on



COVID Appropriate Behaviour along with vaccine is the most effective weapon against coronavirus and all variants

