



# COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT

as of 13 July 2021

## DELTA VARIANT (B.1.617.2)

The SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has undergone several mutations creating *variants*. As long as the virus continues to circulate, it will continue to mutate. The latest variant of concern originated in India and is now called the Delta variant. It is much **more contagious** than the original virus and other variants, and **threatens to reverse many of the gains** against the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly **among populations with low vaccine rates**.

Within the United States, the Delta variant now dominates.

It is estimated the Delta variant is:

- About **50% more transmissible** than the Alpha, or B.1.1.7, originally identified in the United Kingdom; and,
- The Alpha variant is about 50% more transmissible than the original COVID-19 strain

Symptoms may include headache, sore throat, runny nose, and fever. Cough and loss of smell are less common for the Delta variant. If you have any of these symptoms, even if you have been fully vaccinated, get tested even if you think it's just a cold or allergies.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) & Yale Medicine



### VIRUS VARIANTS & VARIANTS 'OF CONCERN'

If you think about a virus like a tree growing and branching out, each branch on the tree is slightly different than the others. By comparing the branches, scientists can label them according to the differences. These small differences, or *variants*, have been studied and identified since the beginning of the pandemic.

Variants are designated **of concern** when:

- They are **more easily transmitted** and/or associated with **more severe disease**
- Or, if a **reduction in immune response** is observed from previous infection or vaccination

Sources: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) & CDC webpage [About Variants of the Virus That Cause COVID-19](#)