



Common/Media Name	Technical Name	Is It in the United States?	Has it been confirmed in Michigan?	Notable Facts
UK Strain	B.1.1.7	Yes	Yes	1. Most common variant in the US population 2. <b>Increased risk of passing the virus to others.</b> 3. <b>May have increased risk of death after infection.</b> 4. Michigan is one of the states with the most cases.
Africa Strain	B.1.351	Yes	No	1. Many unknowns with this strain. 2. May affect vaccine effectiveness. 3. <b>Likely increased risk of passing the virus to others.</b>
Japan or Brazil Strain	P.1	Yes	No	1. Many unknowns with this strain. 2. May affect vaccine effectiveness. 3. <b>Likely increased risk of passing the virus to others.</b>



## **FAQ**

### **What is a variant?**

- Just like a copy machine, when viruses make copies of themselves those copies may not be perfect. The DNA that gives the virus its instructions may undergo changes. Making copies of a copy over and over will lead to a lot of errors. Sometimes, these errors make the virus die and not be able to infect people. Sometimes, these errors help the virus get stronger or spread faster.

### **Are there other variants of the virus that causes COVID-19?**

- Likely, yes. However, the variants in the table are all the known variants circulating in the United States population.

### **Variants can reduce vaccine effectiveness. Should I wait for a better vaccine?**

- No. While current vaccines may be *less* effective against some variants, they still do a good job at protecting you. By protecting yourself, you are protecting others.

### **How can I protect myself from variants?**

- You should follow CDC and local health department guidelines. Wear masks and social distance. Get vaccinated as soon as your county allows. If you have any special concerns, speak with your doctor to address them.

### **Do masks and social distancing work to protect me from variants?**

- Yes.

#### **Resources:**

More information about SARS-CoV-2 variants:

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/variant-surveillance/variant-info.html>

Geographical distribution of the variants over the USA - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>