

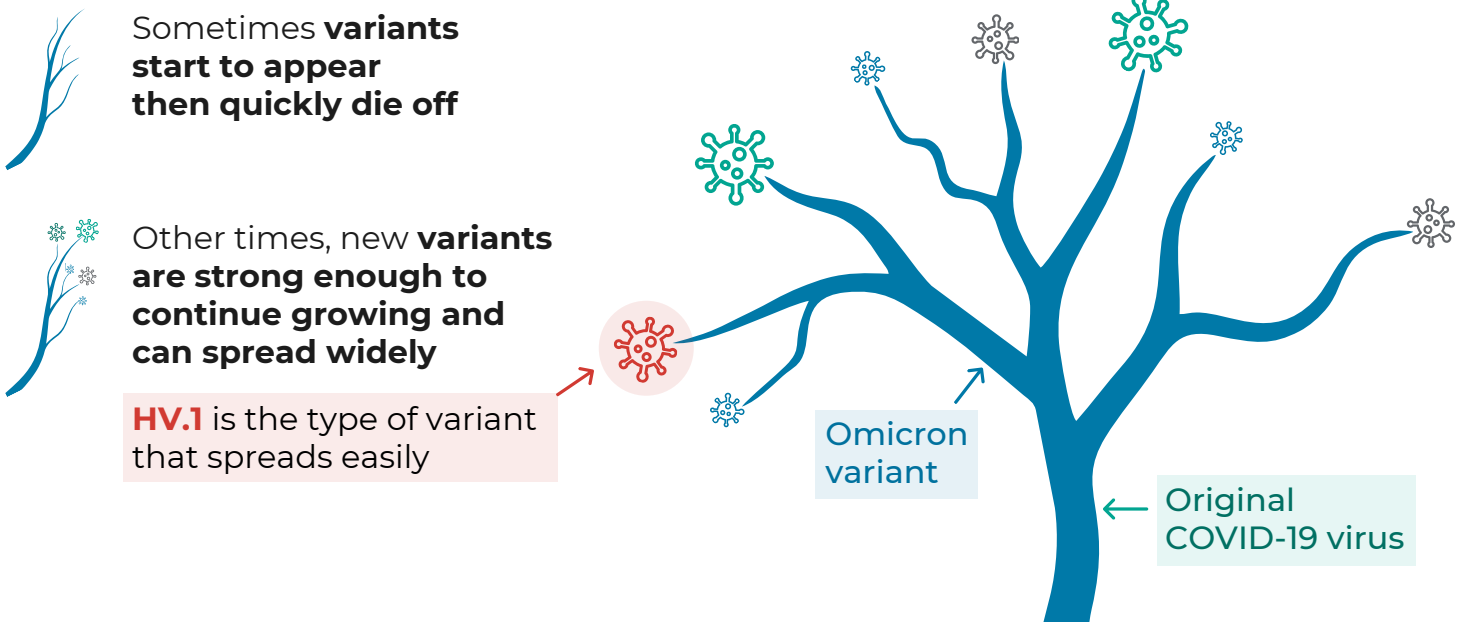
# COVID-19 variant HV.1: What you need to know



## What is the COVID-19 variant HV.1?

HV.1 is the main COVID-19 variant in the U.S. as of November 2023.

You can think of variants of a virus like a family tree. As a tree grows, new branches grow. The branches are all similar but also have differences, just like variants.



### ➔ What is a variant?

A variant is a type of virus that has changed slightly from its original form. These changes (mutations) happen as the virus spreads from person to person. The changes in a variant can affect how easily the virus spreads or how well treatments work to fight it.

## What's different about the HV.1 variant?

Researchers are still learning about the HV.1 variant



Right now, they think it spreads from person to person more easily than other variants



# What are the symptoms of the HV.1 variant?

HV.1 symptoms are like those caused by other recent variants, which include:

- Sore throat
- Congestion or stuffy nose
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Feeling weak and tired (fatigue)
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fever or chills



## ➔ Am I likely to get more sick from it?

These symptoms don't seem to be worse compared to other COVID-19 variants

# I have the latest COVID-19 vaccine. Am I protected?



Researchers are studying this question because the variant is still new, but they expect the updated vaccine to be effective against HV.1. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

Visit our website to find out if you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at no cost through CDC's Bridge Access Program: [bit.ly/3QMEI8B](https://bit.ly/3QMEI8B)



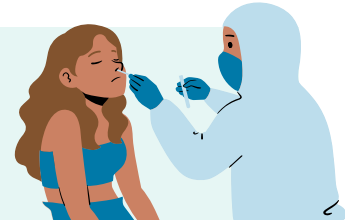
# How can I protect myself?

Follow the same precautions as with earlier variants, such as:

Stay up-to-date on your vaccines. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find one near you.



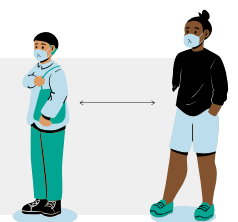
Get tested if you have symptoms, and avoid being around other people if you test positive



Wear a mask in crowded, indoor places



Social distance and avoid large gatherings when possible



Wash your hands with soap and water often, especially:

- After using the bathroom
- Before and after eating
- After touching common surfaces, such as doorknobs, handrails, and shopping carts

