

No Longer Greek to You: Understanding COVID-19 Variants

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a novel virus, but it is not unique as far as virus behavior goes. It has done what all viruses do: evolve into variants. From alpha to omicron, this podcast series describes SARS-CoV-2 variants and the impact of their ever-changing nature on COVID-19 vaccines.

This CE course is relevant to all healthcare professionals.

Episode 1 – With COVID-19, Change Is Constant

Keeping up with COVID-19 variants has been challenging for healthcare professionals, not to mention the public at large. Listen to learn distinctions between variants and strains of SARS-CoV-2 — plus how they got the names we've come to know so well.

Guest

Daniel Griffin, MD, PhD

- Board-certified in internal medicine and infectious disease
- Expertise in global health, tropical medicine, parasitology, and virology
- International speaker for organizations such as the University of Glasgow, the University of Minnesota, the Peace Corps, the Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children, Floating Doctors, and Remote Care Education
- Podcast co-host of *This Week in Virology* by the American Society for Microbiology
- Co-author, *Parasitic Diseases, 7th edition*

Host

Deborah Martin, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC, FACHE

- Director of Learning Innovation, Elite Learning
- Certified nurse executive and fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
- More than 25 years in healthcare, including as system director of professional practice and development at a large healthcare system

Reviewer

Lisa Simani, APRN, MS, ACNP

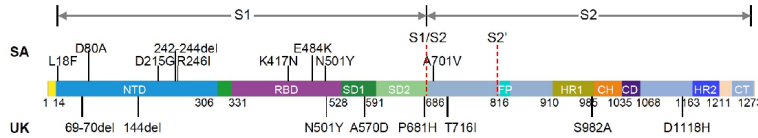
- Editor, Nurse Regulatory/Compliance Planner for Elite Learning
- 20 years of publishing experience
- Lead author of peer-reviewed articles for print- and web-based nursing continuing education provider companies

Episode Key Points

Understanding the Language

Now what about these crazy numbers and letters? The spike protein is 1,273 amino acids long in the wild type and the number is what amino acid counting from 1 to 1273. The letters signify the original amino acid and then the number is followed by the new amino acid.

Deletions follow the same schema.



Antibody resistance of SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.351 and B.1.1.7 Nature, Wang et al 3/2021

Understanding the New Variant Terminology

WHO VOC	Pango lineage	Mutations	Earliest Documented Samples
Alpha	B.1.1.7	-	UK
Beta	B.1.351	E484K, K417	S Africa
Gamma	P.1	E484K, K417	Brazil
Delta	B.1.617.2	L452R	India

WHO VOI	Pango lineage	Mutations	Earliest Documented Samples
Epsilon	B.1.427/1.429	L452R	US
Zeta	P.2	E484K	Brazil
Eta	B.1.525	E484K	Multiple
Theta	P.3	E484K	Philippines
Iota	B.1.526	L452R, E484K	US
Kappa	B.1.617	L452R, E484Q	India

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Resources

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