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Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

The U.S. breathes a sigh of relief as COVID-19 cases continue to decline, while other countries experience an incalculable surge of suffering and loss. The world is watching closely to see how much new variants play a role in these starkly different experiences. This week on Resilience Report we provide a rundown of SARS-CoV-2 variants and their attributes. We also share a county's efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and look towards May's monthly celebrations.



Surreal Contrast.

In the midst of relief that U.S. COVID-19 infection and death [rates are falling](#), Indian Americans (and the world) watch with grief as [India's rates skyrocket](#).

Vaccination Rejection.

Millions of people in the U.S. are [refusing a COVID-19 vaccine](#). An open discussion on why can help both "pro" and "no" COVID-19 vaccination [better understand](#) each other's positions.

Addressing Racism.

Multnomah County, Oregon is rebuilding their community with a focus on equity by declaring [racism a public health crisis](#). Their [Straight Talk episode](#) discusses the county's plans to tackle racism and make a difference.

Extreme Weather.

Is California in a new drought or continuing a [megadrought](#)? Either way, the ecosystem is strained by climate change and we're on watch for wildfire conditions the spurred last year's firestorm season. All while the other side of the country battles [rain, hail, and tornados](#).

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: VIRAL VARIANTS

Every week, we dedicate space for a hot topic we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. With vaccine hesitancy causing concern for the future of herd immunity and a deadly surge of coronavirus cases in India and other countries, variants are at the front of many people's minds. Mutations are a normal part of viral reproduction; sometimes, a mutation leads to a new variant and sometimes, those variants have different properties from the original strain. The CDC has [three classifications](#) for new SARS-CoV-2 variants:

- **Variant of Interest:** genetic evidence indicates the possibility of changes in transmissibility, interaction with antibodies, effect of treatments, disease severity, or accuracy of testing
- **Variant of Concern:** evidence of increased transmissibility, more severe disease, resistance to antibodies, reduced effectiveness of treatments or vaccines, or difficulty with detection through testing
- **Variant of High Consequence** (none so far): clear evidence that prevention measures or medical countermeasures have significantly reduced effectiveness relative to previously circulating strains

While there are many variant strains that have been detected across the globe, below are five of the most concerning to the global and U.S. public health communities. All except B.1.617 are considered **Variants of Concern** in the U.S.

Strain	Country Where First Identified	First Identified in U.S.	Notable Attributes
B.1.1.7	UK	December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmission • Potentially increased severity
B.1.351	South Africa	Late January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmission • Decreased susceptibility to some treatments • Somewhat resistant to antibodies
P.1	Brazil	January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased susceptibility to some treatments • Somewhat resistant to antibodies
B.1.427 and B.1.429	California	February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased transmission • Decreased susceptibility to some treatments • Somewhat resistant to antibodies
B.1.617	India	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased susceptibility to some treatments • Somewhat resistant to antibodies

The continued circulation of these viral variants [around the world](#) and the emergence of new ones makes it more important than ever for communities to get [vaccinated to prevent](#) viral circulation that could lead to even more variants.

Shoot our resident epidemiologist and public health experts an [email](#) to learn more!



Dear Mom.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. This Sunday (5/9/21) we celebrate the special women who brought us into the world, those who raised us, and those who provided us with maternal love. Thank you all.

May the Fourth be With You.

This week was National Star Wars Day (5/4/21)! Perhaps the biggest celebration was by SpaceX which launched [60 satellites](#) and landed the Falcon 9. There is still time to celebrate by watching your favorite Star Wars movie (or animated series).

Month Long Celebration.

It is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and a great time to celebrate history, traditions, and culture. Check out [PBS's collection](#) of stories or [UCLA's recommended media](#) to learn and honor the struggle and contribution of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with vaccine ops, COVID-19 AARs, return to work planning, or anything in between, shoot us an email at jason@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.

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