**Should You Worry About New Covid-19 Strain?**

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A new variant of Covid-19 first diagnosed in England was found in Colorado on December 29th. The variant now has at least 17 mutations, most on the spike protein. Some say it’s more transmissible; Others disagree. Some scientists just want more data before they’ll say anything.

A recent study claims it is more transmissible, but this is a mathematical modeling study. You may recall the now-discredited modeling study that claimed 2.2 million Americans would die from Covid.

Some say the variant doesn’t appear to make the vaccines less effective; others say the vaccine could become less effective over time and need to be adapted. But the two most important points to know are these: it still has to deal with your individual immune response and there’s NO evidence that it causes more severe disease.

**“The U.K. Coronavirus Mutation is Worrying but Not Terrifying,”** Sara Reardon, Scientific American, December 24, 2020: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-u-k-coronavirus-mutation-is-worrying-but-not-terrifying/>

**Coronavirus Variant is Indeed More Transmissible, New Study Suggest,”** Carl Zimmer and Benedict Carey, The New York Times, December 29, 2020: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/23/health/coronavirus-uk-variant.html>