



Concerns rise over potential summer spike due to new Covid FLiRT variants

Description

Woman wearing a face mask to protect against Covid-19 on 7th April 2024 in London, United Kingdom: Mike Kemp | In Pictures | Getty Images

Health experts are raising concerns about new strains of Covid-19 spreading globally, potentially leading to a summer spike in cases. The FLiRT variants, named after mutations in their genetic code, are increasing in the U.S. and Europe as the virus continues to evolve.

Descendants of the JN.1 variant, the KP.2 strain is now dominant in the U.S., accounting for 28.2% of cases. Meanwhile, the KP.1.1 variant makes up 7.1% of current infections. In Europe, the new variant has been detected in 14 countries.

While there is little evidence that the new strains are more severe, they are causing some concern. The World Health Organization notes that cases remain limited, although some countries are reporting slight increases.

Experts believe the new strains may lead to an increase in cases in the U.S. in the coming months, despite existing immunity. The effectiveness of current vaccines against these strains is being closely monitored, with discussions underway for potential adjustments to the winter Covid-19 vaccine mix.

The U.K. Health Security Agency continues to monitor the situation, emphasizing the importance of vaccine effectiveness and public health measures. While the impact of the new strains remains uncertain, health professionals are prepared for potential challenges ahead.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Strains** // (noun): Different versions of a virus, bacterium, or microorganism.
2. **Evolve** // (verb): To develop gradually, especially from a simple to a more complex form.
3. **Mutation** // (noun): A change in the genetic structure of an organism.
4. **Immunity** // (noun): The ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin.
5. **Variant** // (noun): A form or version of something that differs in some respect from other forms of the same thing.
6. **Monitoring** // (noun): The act of observing and checking something over time.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term is used to signify the deep appreciation or love for something?

- Option: Antiretroviral
- Option: Cherishes
- Option: Empower
- Option: Mutation

2. The body's ability to resist infection and disease is known as:

- Option: Variant
- Option: Immunity
- Option: Monitoring
- Option: Nutrients

3. Which type of cancer affects the colon and rectum?



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- Option: Steadily
Option: Predisposition
Option: Anemia
Option: Colorectal
4. The process of giving power and authority to someone is known as:
- Option: Empowerment
Option: Innovative
Option: Strains
Option: Evolve
5. Which term relates to mental processes like thinking understanding and remembering?
- Option: Longevity
Option: Biomarkers
Option: Neurodegenerative
Option: Cognitive
6. Which term describes the act of following guidelines or rules?
- Option: Adherence
Option: Stigmatize
Option: Monitoring
Option: Nutrients
7. A change in the genetic material of an organism is referred to as a:
- Option: Incidence
Option: Variant
Option: Mutation
Option: Predisposition
8. The action or state of keeping careful watch for potential dangers or difficulties is called:
- Option: Anemia
Option: Vigilance
Option: Remission
Option: Anemia
9. To remove the association of shame and disgrace from a particular condition is to:
- Option: Comprehensive
Option: Variant
Option: Destigmatize
Option: Transcend
10. Which term describes the introduction of new ideas or methods?
- Option: Innovative



- Option: Empower
- Option: Steadily
- Option: Evolve

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. A balanced diet should provide essential _____ for overall health.
12. Advancements in medicine and healthcare have increased the average human _____.
13. The _____ of the disease has been steadily increasing over the past decade.
14. Genetic factors may create a _____ to certain medical conditions.
15. After undergoing treatment the cancer went into _____.
16. The healthcare plan included a _____ range of services to address various needs.
17. The virus showed multiple _____ which made treatment challenging.
18. Organisms constantly _____ to adapt to their environment.
19. Blood tests can detect specific _____ that indicate the presence of a disease.
20. Alzheimer's disease is a type of _____ disorder that affects the brain.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

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| 21. Regularly observing and checking a patient's condition and progress. |
| 22. To give someone the authority or power to do something. |
| 23. To go beyond the usual limits or boundaries. |
| 24. To treat someone as unworthy or disgraceful because of a particular characteristic. |
| 25. The process of enabling individuals to have control over their lives. |
| 26. A form or version of something that differs from the standard. |



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| 27. Keeping track of a process or activity over time to ensure proper functioning. |
| 28. A genetic alteration or change resulting in a different characteristic. |
| 29. Introducing new methods or ideas to improve existing practices. |
| 30. The act of following a set of guidelines or instructions consistently. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Cherishes 2. Immunity 3. Colorectal 4. Empowerment 5. Cognitive 6. Adherence 7. Mutation 8. Vigilance 9. Destigmatize 10. Innovative

Gap-Fill: 11. Nutrients 12. Longevity 13. Incidence 14. Predisposition 15. Remission 16. Comprehensive 17. Strains 18. Evolve 19. Biomarkers 20. Neurodegenerative

Matching sentence: 1. Monitoring 2. Empower 3. Transcend 4. Stigmatize 5. Empowerment 6. Variant 7. Monitoring 8. Mutation 9. Innovative 10. Adherence

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL4

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