

Protection against new variants

“I’ve heard about all these different variants of COVID and it seems like every year there’s a new type. If I’m going to get a COVID shot every year, how do I know it’s going to protect me against whatever variant is out there right now?”

“That’s a good question that many other people have too. The best way to slow new variants from emerging is to slow the spread of the virus, and the best way to slow the spread is to get vaccinated. With the two recent variants Delta and Omicron, we saw that the COVID vaccines were effective in reducing transmission and the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Each year health experts work together to identify the variant that is most likely to be circulating in the fall and then they develop the vaccine to target that variant. Health officials say the new COVID vaccines are a much closer match to currently circulating variants than prior vaccines and they are still a close match (and will offer protection against) all other current and newer strains.”