DIFFERENT COVID-19 VACCINES AND IMPORTANCE OF BEING VACCINATED

by:
Bernadeth Joyce M. Magat
Administrative Assistant III

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, changes over time much like any other virus. Changes in the virus's characteristics, such as how readily it spreads, the severity of the sickness it causes, or the effectiveness of vaccinations against certain viruses, might all be affected.

COVID-19, a coronavirus-borne illness, has claimed millions of lives to date. The discovery of new SARS-CoV-2 variants has put the globe on high alert as the world continues to combat the deadly coronavirus. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), four versions of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the sickness are spreading across these variations are also seen in the Philippines, the Alpha, Beta, Delta and Lambda Variant.

In September, Alpha, formerly known as the B.1.1.7 version, appeared in the United Kingdom for the first time. The variation rapidly became the most common among cases in the United Kingdom and across Europe, increasing panic and fuelling fresh outbreaks. Alpha has also become the most popular strain in the Philippines. According to studies, the alpha version is far more infectious than the original virus, perhaps boosting transmission by up to 50%. It's also likely related to a greater risk of death, according to some scientists. The alpha version may be more hazardous for a variety of reasons. According to research, the spike protein changes might help it attach more closely to cells when it infects humans or stay in the body for longer, giving it more time to spread to other people. In trials, the existing COVID-19 vaccines were still very effective against the alpha version.
In October 2020, a beta variant was identified in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. According to the US CDC, it also possesses numerous mutations in the spike protein the beta version of the virus is 50 percent more infectious than the original virus and it includes one mutation in particular that scientists are keeping an eye on: E484K, often known as the "Eek" mutation. The "Eek" mutation affects the spike protein and appears to enable the virus avoid the body's immune systems, perhaps allowing it to evade vaccination protection or re infect persons who have already been infected with COVID-19. AstraZeneca's vaccine could not protect people well against mild or moderate instances caused by the beta version, according to a research released just as South Africa was prepared to distribute a million doses. In January, Johnson & Johnson revealed that the effectiveness rate of their vaccines had decreased from 72 percent in the United States to 57 percent in South Africa. Pfizer and Moderna said their mRNA-based vaccines were still effective against the variation, but only modestly so.

The most recent and currently most worrying variation of concern is Delta, or B.1.671.2. It was originally discovered late last year in India. The variation contributed to India's catastrophic COVID-19 outbreaks. And it's soon become the most common illness on the planet: The delta variety is causing the majority of illnesses in countries ranging from the United Kingdom to Russia, Israel to Kenya. The symptoms of the Delta variant of COVID-19 will be like the symptom of original variant. Physicians, on the other hand, are witnessing individuals become ill more quickly, particularly among the young. According to this study, the Delta variant develops faster and to much higher levels – in the respiratory system. When vaccinated persons develop the Delta form, they are usually asymptomatic or have very minor symptoms. Their symptoms are similar to those of a normal cold, such as cough, fever, and headache, but they often include a severe loss of smell.

The lambda variation, also known as C.37, was originally discovered in Peru in December. It has spread to a number of nations, particularly in Latin America, and has
recently appeared in many U.S. states. It also has some of the mutations that make some of the more hazardous versions more dangerous. Still, lambda hasn't had much of an impact: it accounts for a very small percentage of instances in the Philippines, and it has expanded more slowly than other variations such as delta.

As the virus spreads, it's likely that a more deadly form will arise. When it comes to the evolution of variations, it's critical that we follow health routine both inside and outside of our houses. Vaccination should be encouraged since studies show that those who have been vaccinated are less susceptible to these infections. In these hard times, we must have a positive attitude, maintain our faith, and always be prepared.

References: