

March 4, 2021

The variant is known to contain the same E484K mutation seen in variants in Brazil and South Africa that is believed to make COVID-19 vaccines and antibody therapies less effective, as well as a mutation called S477N that helps the virus bind more tightly to cells when it breaks into them.

A report by New York State Department of Health researchers posted on Monday on medRxiv ahead of peer review adds new information: all versions of the variant circulating in New York harbor a mutation called D235G that might reduce the efficacy of neutralizing antibodies.

The variant "has increased in the circulating virus population in New York state by almost 26-fold in a little over a month," the researchers said. "The combination of E484K or S477N with a D253G mutation that might confer immune escape, and the increased number of COVID-19 cases associated with these variants, warrants further monitoring."

Additionally, we now are seeing vaccine breakthrough cases in a couple states Meaning individuals who were fully vaccinated and had time to develop antibodies- contracting SARS-CoV-2. Severity of illness is less.

Martie Moore, MAOM, RN, CPHQ  
[oregonmlm@icloud.com](mailto:oregonmlm@icloud.com)