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Are COVID-19 Variants More Virulent?

Scientists say the spikes of the COVID-19 virus are mutating. These spikes attach to human cells and allow the virus to begin replicating. So far, we’ve got the UK and the Brazil variants. The first U.S. patient identified with the Brazil variant lives in Minnesota and had traveled to Brazil. How worried should you be? Given all the press about variants, that’s a good question.

The most important thing for you to know right now is that it may be no more virulent than the virus we’ve had all year. The Minnesota Department of Health says: “While this variant is thought to be more transmissible than the initial strain of the virus that causes COVID-19 disease, it is not yet known whether the variant causes more severe illness.”