

- Virus

## Why Delta variant spreads more

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THE coronavirus Delta variant, which has become dominant in a number of countries including the UK, most likely spreads through its ability to evade antibodies and its increased infectivity, researchers have said.

Some mutations make the virus more transmissible or more infectious, some help it evade the immune response, potentially making vaccines less effective, while others have little effect. One such variant is the Delta variant, was first observed in India in late 2020, and it has since spread around the world.

In the UK, it is responsible for nearly all new cases of coronavirus.

Prof Ravi Gupta, from the University of Cambridge, said: “We’ve shown that the Delta variant is better at replicating and spreading than other commonly-observed variants.”