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DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VARIANTS

■ **Low vaccine coverage increases risk of new variants as high viral replication and person-to-person transmission provides plenty of opportunities for the virus to mutate**

■ **Alternatively, as vaccination rates rise, the only viruses that will be able to successfully infect people will be variants that at least partially escape the protection of vaccines**

■ **Duplication virus RNA is imperfect.** Eventually, errors will accumulate, causing what we refer to as virus variants

■ **Some variants will be better at entering cells or duplicating**

WHAT ARE VARIANTS

■ **Every time someone gets infected with SARS-CoV-2, there is a chance the virus could generate a more fit variant**

■ **Eventually, 'fitter' variants will become the main virus that replicates within a population**