

Discover & Deliver: Encouraging Data on Vaccine Effectiveness Against COVID Variants

As COVID-19 cases decline across the country and vaccinations continue to rise, one question remains top of mind for many: What about the variants?

What's new: Yesterday, data [published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*](#) (NEJM) reiterates that both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are protective against the variants.

Lab analysis of the Pfizer vaccine revealed that while there is a [two-thirds reduction](#) in the level of neutralization against the South African variant, the Pfizer vaccine still offers a high-level of protection against COVID-19.

Likewise, Moderna [published a letter in the NEJM](#) noting that though there is a reduction in the antibody response against the South Africa strain, “neutralizing titer levels remain [above levels](#) that are expected to be protective.”



What's next: While the news about the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is encouraging, the scientists will not rest. [Pfizer emphasized](#) that they will continue to take the necessary steps to explore whether an updated vaccine or booster will be needed to protect against emerging strains of the virus.

The [Biden administration also committed \\$200 million](#) to support efforts to track coronavirus variants through increased lab sequencing.

What's clear is this: The innovative scientific community followed the science to the discovery of multiple effective vaccines, and they will continue to do so until we have defeated this pandemic once and for all.

—Kelly Anderson, Senior Director, Health and Drug Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center

Build by 4th of July Coalition to Congress: We Need “Massive Investment” in Infrastructure

The Chamber and the Bipartisan Policy Center, along with over 300 organizations, sent a [letter](#) to Congress urging action on infrastructure investment: “Our nation must launch a massive investment program in transportation, energy, water and communications technologies.”

Why it matters: Bipartisan action will advance economic recovery. “Doing so will repair our crumbling roads, bridges, and transit, and the current gridlock in our major economic hubs that harm our productivity, global competitiveness and quality of life,” reads the letter. “It will propel public and private efforts to decarbonize our economy in a meaningful way, address infrastructure challenges with both manmade and natural solutions, and close the digital divide by expanding broadband and internet access. This effort also provides an opportunity to ensure the benefits and jobs from infrastructure investments are shared with communities that have borne disproportionate burdens.”

Learn more:

- [Build by the 4th](#) campaign webpage.

[Read the Letter](#)