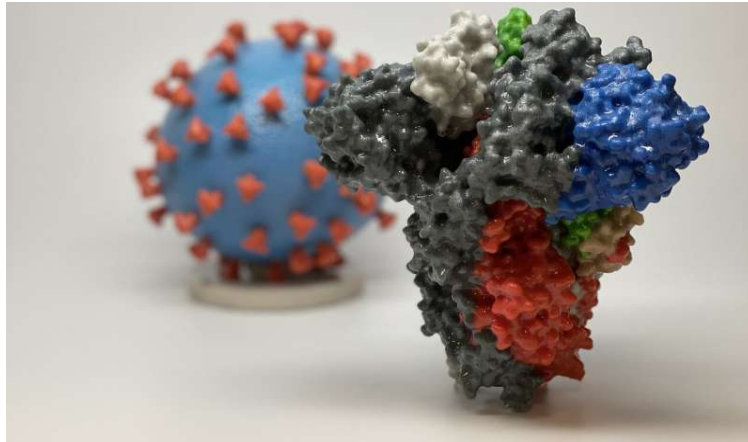




ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH ALERT 2021-01 [06 January 2021]

COVID-19 MUTATIONS



Over the last few months, reports of the Novel Coronavirus' mutated forms have become more and more prominent. All viruses mutate in order to better adapt to their environment. Notably, mutated strains of the Novel Coronavirus initially found in the U.K. and South Africa are described as having spike proteins that are considerably enlarged and that more readily bind to human cell receptors (*See comparative illustrations, above*). That makes them much more transmissible (much more contagious) but not necessarily more lethal. The U.K. mutated strain has now been found in several U.S. States; it's likely that the South African strain (and perhaps others) will find its way here, as well.

The results: The mutated strain(s) will likely become more dominant and the rate of COVID-19 infections in our country [and in our industry] will likely rise as a consequence. The best means at our disposal to remain COVID-19 infection free continue to be:

- 1). Wearing a face covering (a mask);**
- 2). Practicing effective social distancing;**
- 3). Practicing effective hand washing/disinfection;**
- 4). Keeping your hands away from your face & mouth; and**
- 5). Taking the vaccine when it becomes available to you. [The FDA-approved vaccines are considered to be effective against the mutated strains]**

Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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