

Dr. Mike Cruz, Chief Operating Officer, OSF HealthCare & Emergency Medicine Physician

Immunologists look at mutations closely

Immunologists and virologists are pretty sophisticated - they actually know what parts are more stationary and what parts are more likely to change back-and-forth. So if you can lock in a virus to mark the big pieces and the big areas then subtle changes aren't going to make as much a different. :17

We should expect changes with the COVID-19 virus

Coronaviruses we've had for years this is just a novel one that we haven't seen, our bodies haven't seen, so it's going to make it challenging to know. I would expect some changes but the changes that we've seen so far are pretty subtle. The important thing is about the vaccine, to tag the bigger markers that don't change as quickly. :23

Dr. Stephen Hippler, Chief Clinical Officer, OSF HealthCare

Mutations are normal

When people hear about mutations, you think about horror movies and sci-fi movies, but mutations are a normal part of viruses and their life cycle. So as of now, yes, we do have mutations but none are raised to the level of concern. :20

Mutations can affect vaccines

Influenza - we need a shot every year because it's a very unstable virus that can have large mutations year after year so we need a new vaccine. This recent one that was in the literature was of just one of the proteins in those spike proteins. And a mutation like that alone, if it's relatively stable, probably won't impact vaccines but it's still too early to tell. :28