

Testing for
COVID-19

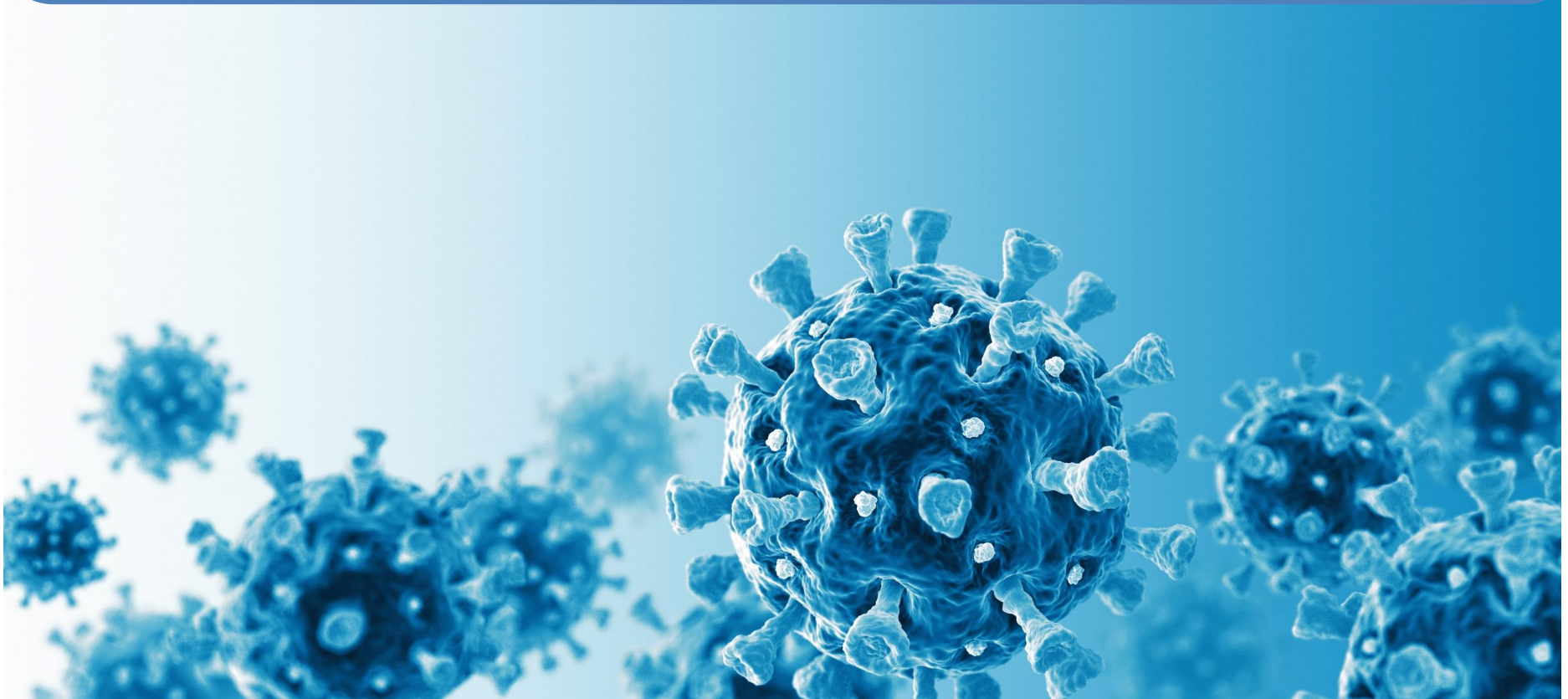


SEND resource pack

Social Story

Viruses and Variants

This is a story about **viruses** and **variants**. **Coronavirus**, or **COVID-19**, is a virus. Viruses are tiny living things that can make us unwell when they enter our body.



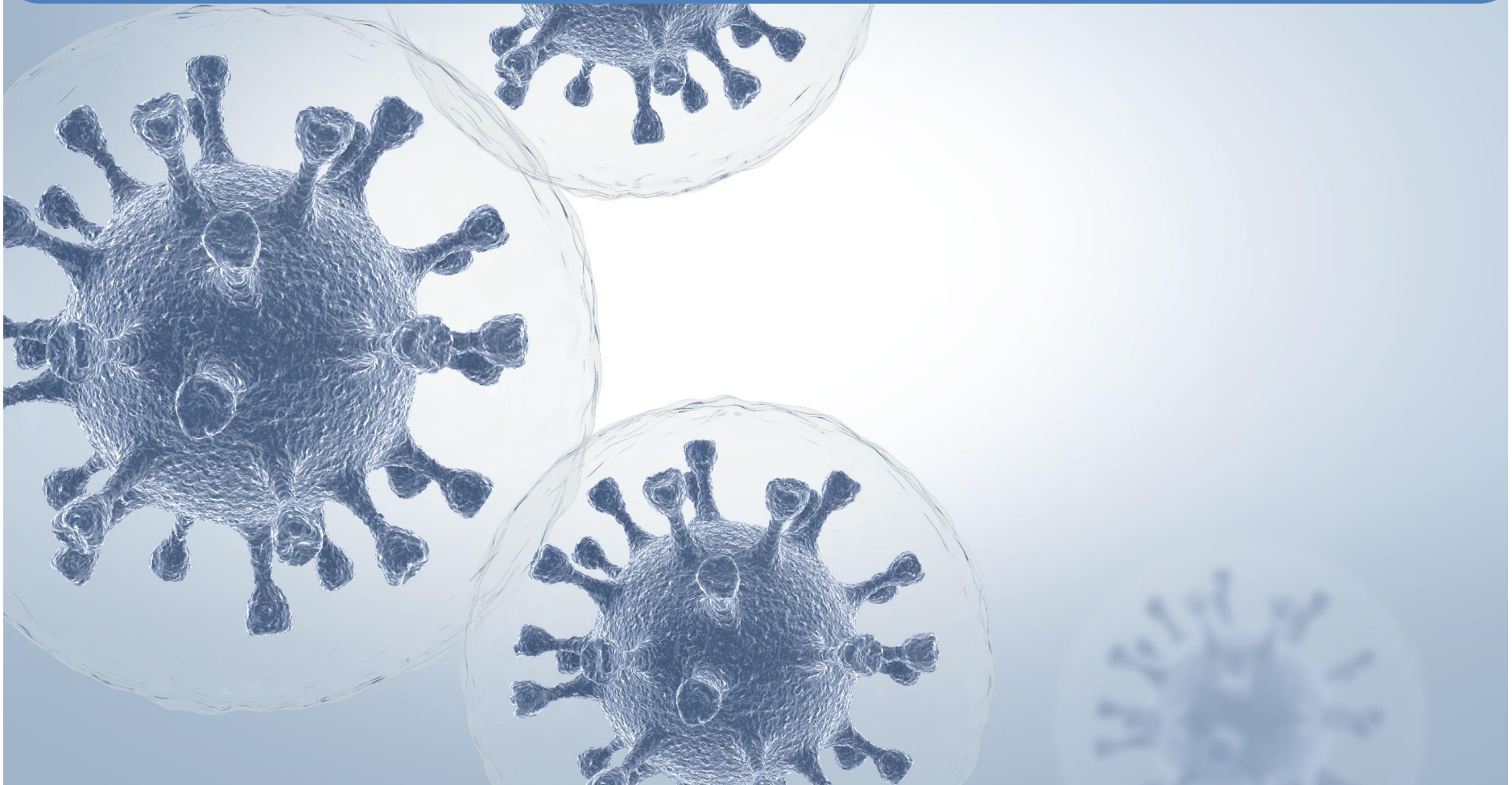
Viruses are so small you need a powerful **microscope** to see them. They are '**microscopic**'. Scientists have been using these to study Coronavirus.



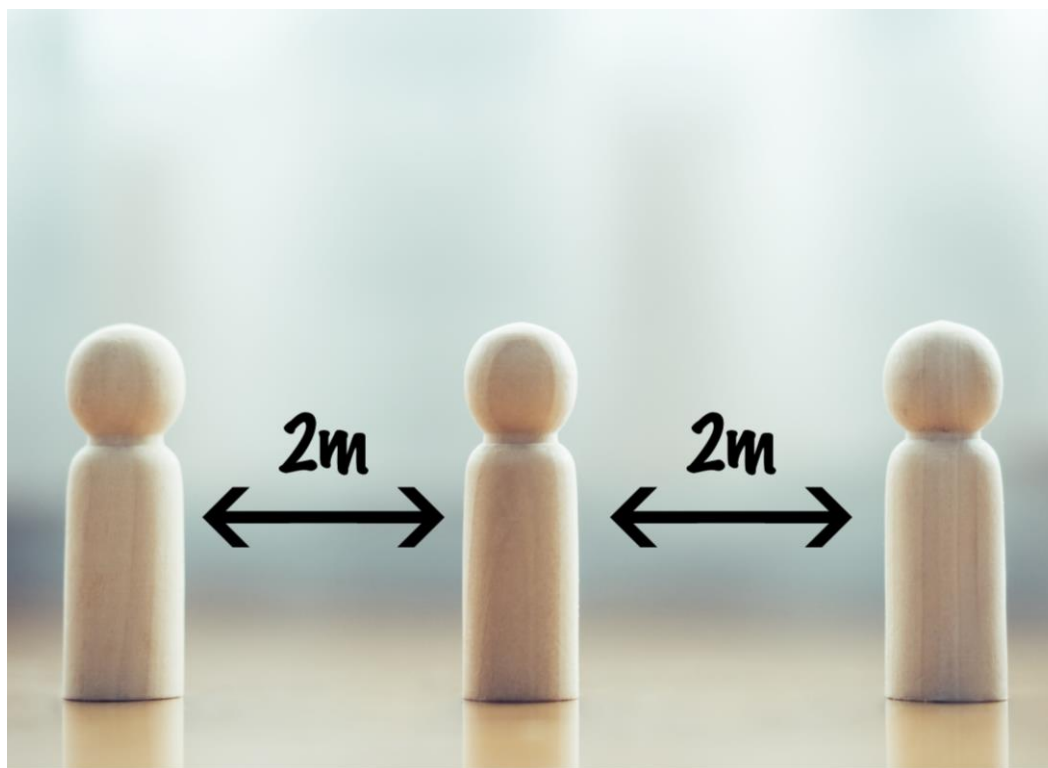
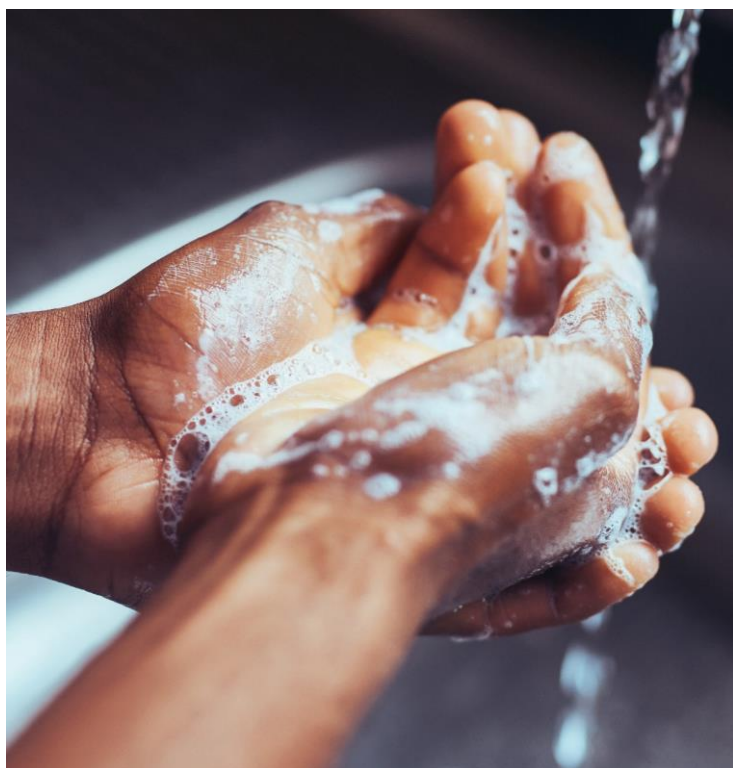
Lots of viruses are quite common and we know what to do if people have them. **Colds** and the **Flu** are both viruses. We can take **medicine**, rest and usually get better at home.



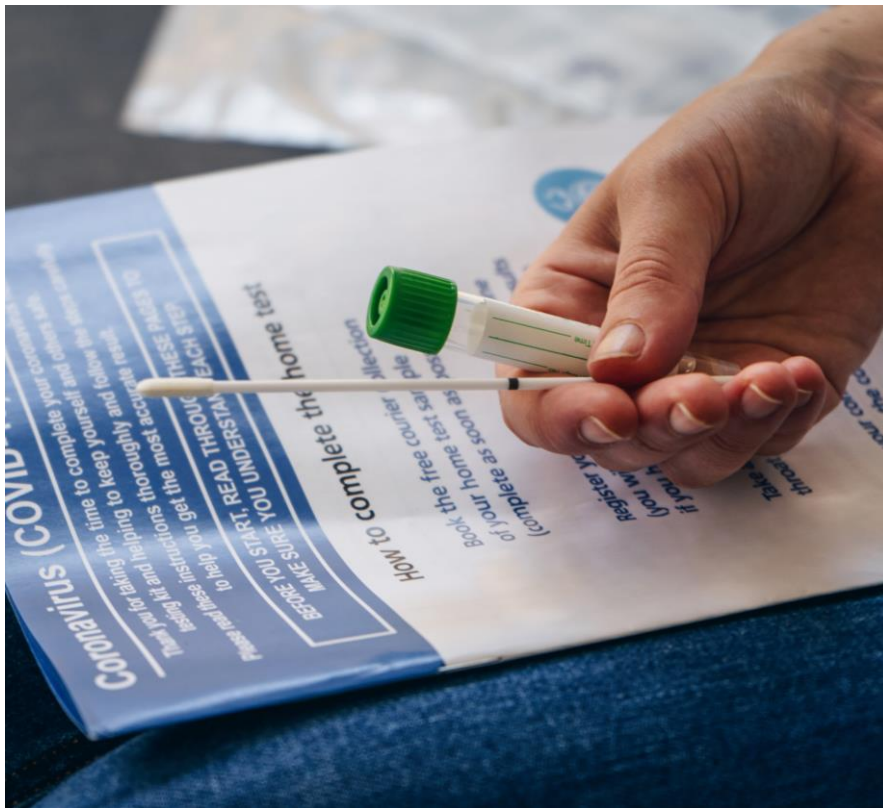
Coronavirus is a **new** virus. This meant we did not have medicines to treat it and it could **spread very quickly**.



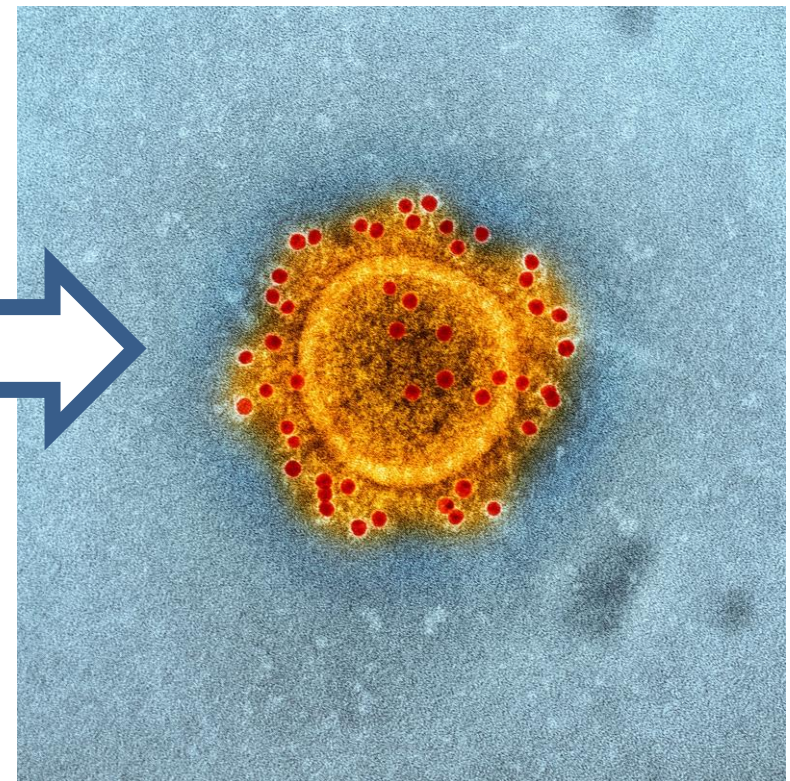
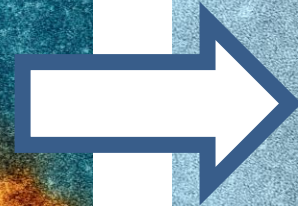
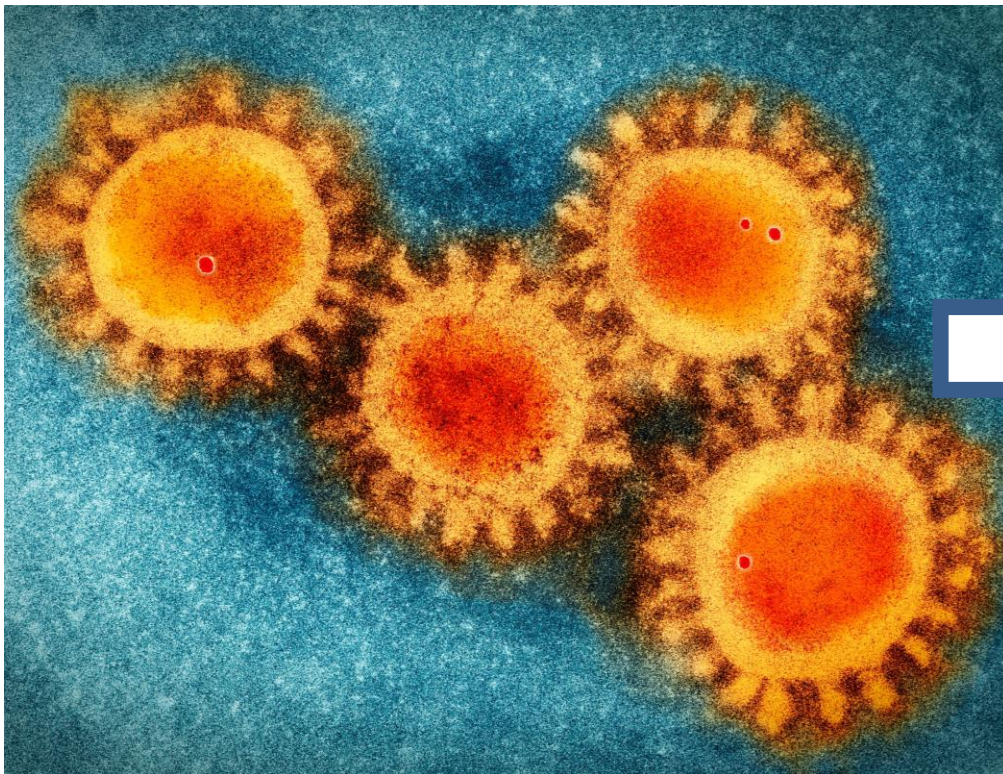
We learnt that **washing our hands, social distancing and wearing a face mask** helps stop Coronavirus spreading.



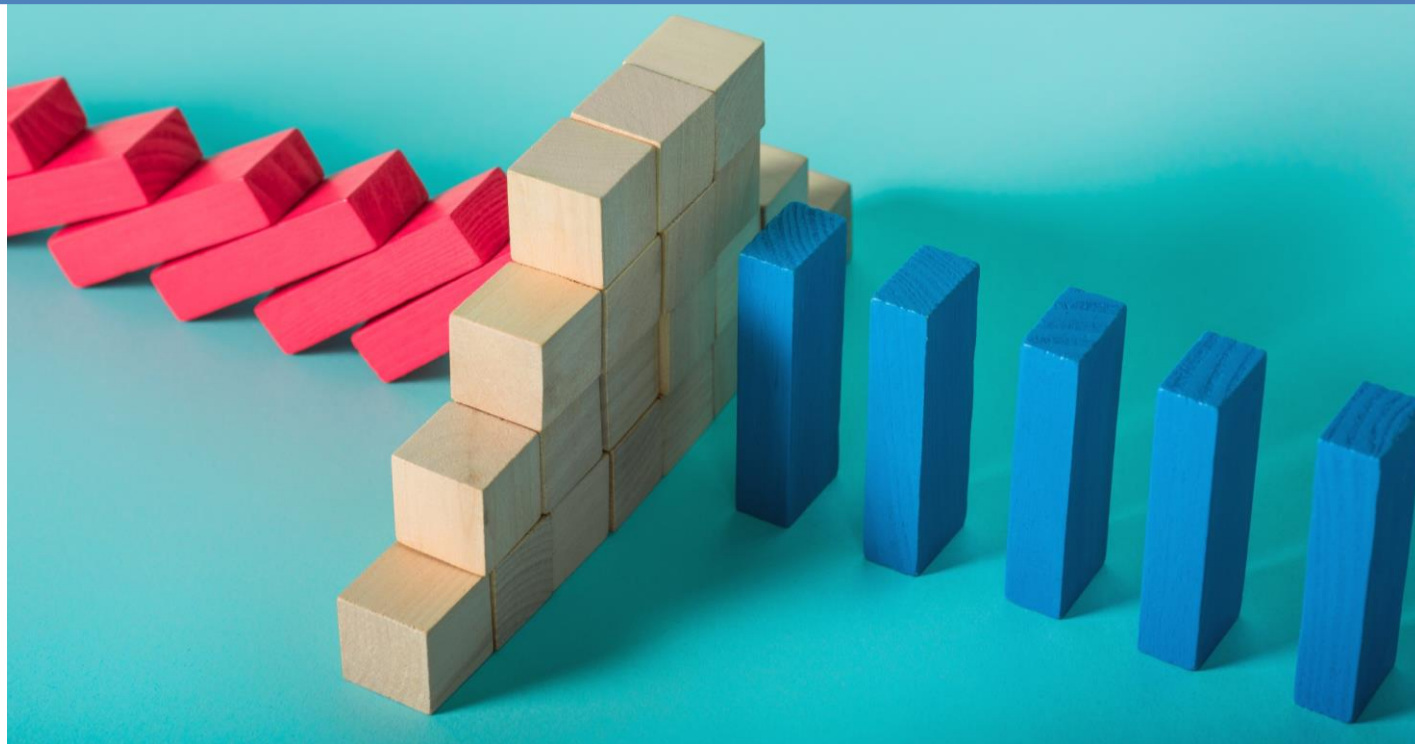
Scientists have also developed **tests** to find out where Coronavirus is and **vaccines** to help people not feel unwell if they do have Coronavirus.



But viruses can **change**. They change their shape and structure. Sometimes this means they can spread more easily or medicines may not work against them. When they change they are called a **'variant'**.



Variants of Coronavirus are now starting to appear. This is why it is very important to **keep washing our hands, social distancing and covering our mouths and nose if we cough or sneeze.** This **stops** Coronavirus and any variants spreading.

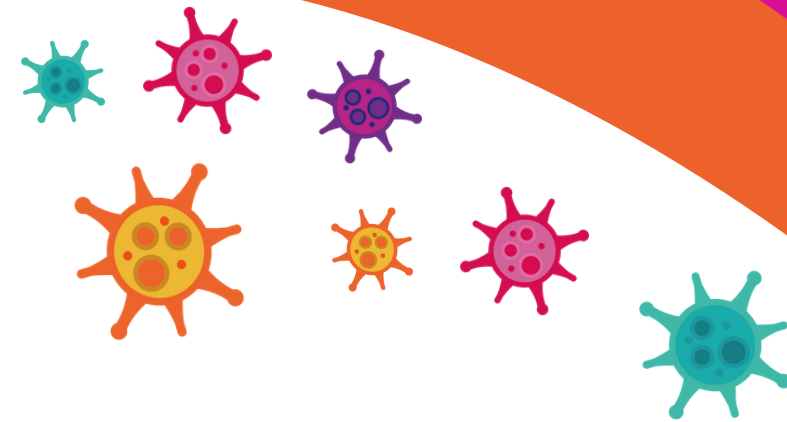


It is also really important we keep taking **tests**. Tests help us know where Coronavirus is and **stop it spreading**.



If we keep **washing our hands, social distancing** and **taking tests** we can **stop Coronavirus and any variants**. We can stay safe and help stop the virus spreading.





Resources co-created with and from an original concept by LifeLab, based at the University of Southampton, Southampton Education School and NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR, or the Department of Health and Social Care.