

# Scottish autism

WHERE AUTISTIC PEOPLE  
ARE VALUED

## **What are the new COVID-19 variants? And what does this mean for the COVID-19 vaccines?**

COVID-19 is a virus and viruses are known to constantly change and mutate. New variants are expected to occur over time.

Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear, whereas other times new variants emerge and persist.

Since the beginning of the pandemic there have been variants of COVID-19 documented globally. For example, in Europe the variant was different from the variant in Wuhan where COVID-19 originated.

At present, through carefully monitoring and looking into the new variant in the UK there is evolving evidence to say the new variant that originated in Kent is more transmissible. Research into this new variant is ongoing.

As long as you follow the guidance set out by the Scottish Government you are doing what you need to do to keep yourself safe.

With regards to the vaccine, the companies that have produced these have said that it is still highly likely these vaccines will still offer the protection required to the public.

Scientists will be watching carefully to see how COVID-19 variants change and mutate and what this may mean for the vaccines. However, it is important to know that a working vaccine can usually be tweaked for different variants easily, just like the Flu vaccine as this is tweaked each year.