



# Pathogen Genomics and New Precision Public Health Tools for Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Response



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OAK RIDGE  
INSTITUTE  
FOR SCIENCE  
AND EDUCATION





*The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

*Use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



Seeing Patterns  
Solving Puzzles  
Targeting Interventions





# Cholera in London



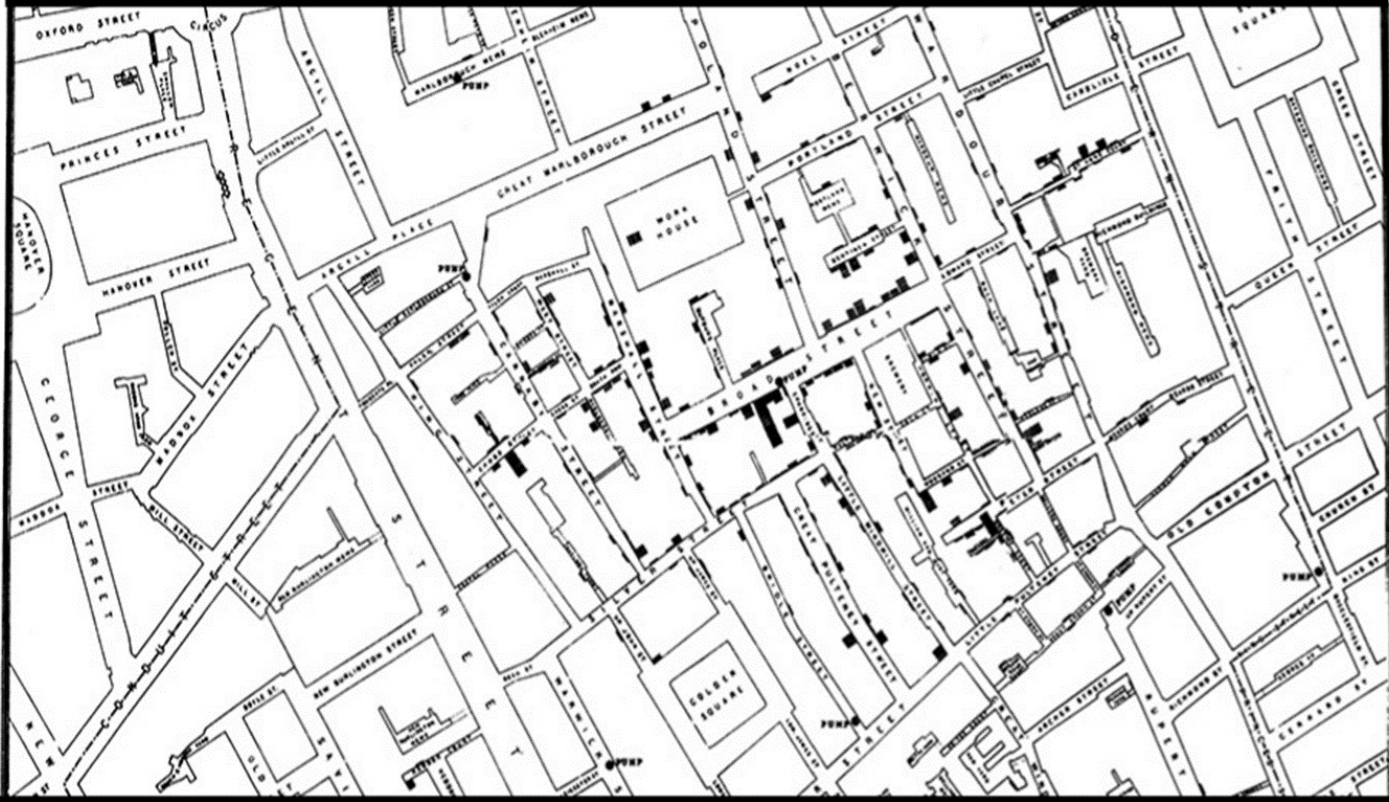
A dead victim of cholera in Sunderland, 1832, Lithograph with watercolour, IWG (lithographer's monograph). © Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)





Credit: Punch, or, the London Charivari. © Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

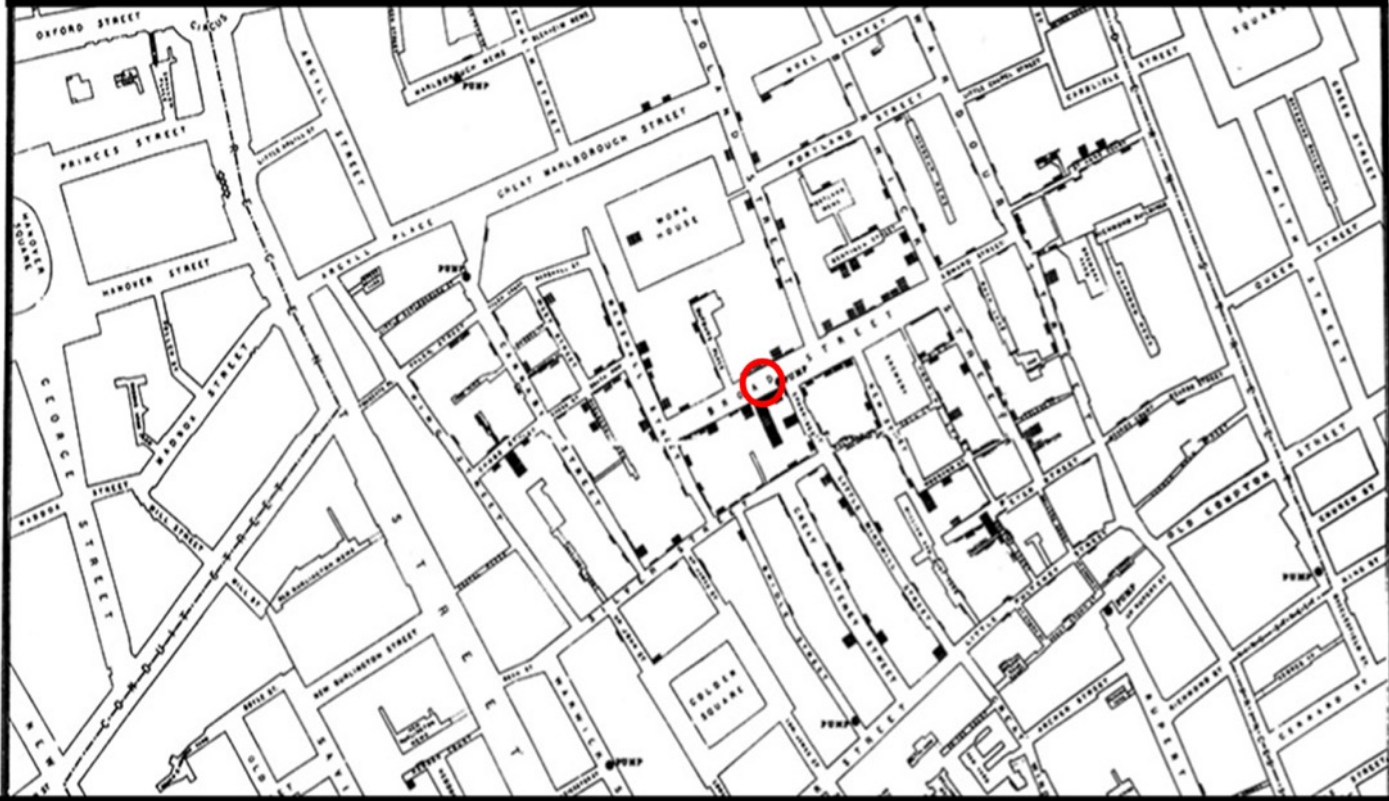
# Cholera in London, 1854



[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Snow-cholera-map-1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Snow-cholera-map-1.jpg)



# Cholera in London, 1854



[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Snow-cholera-map-1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Snow-cholera-map-1.jpg)

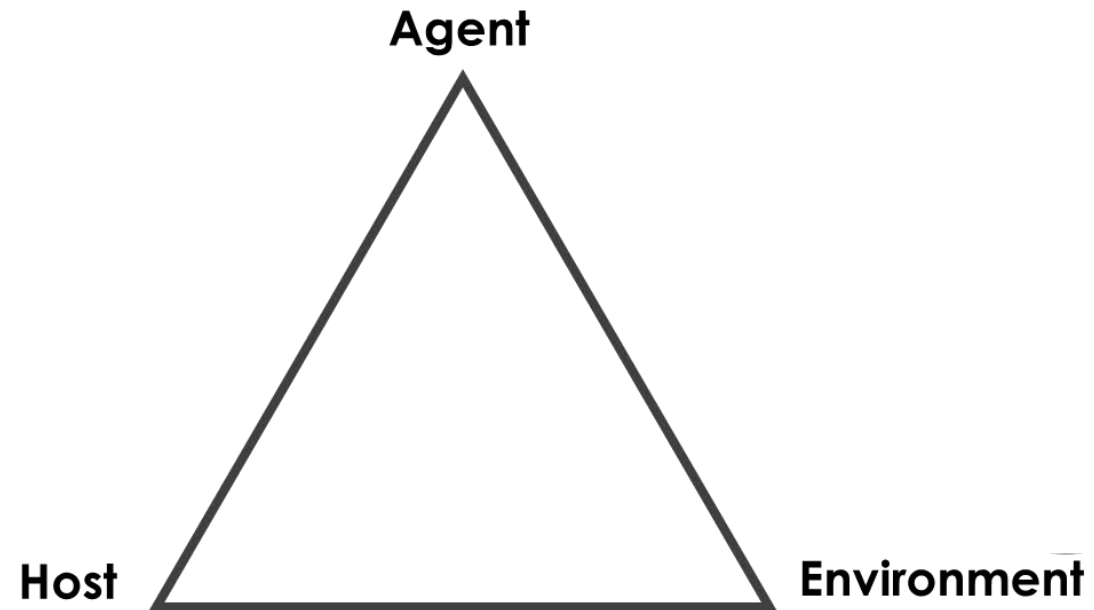


# Targeted Intervention

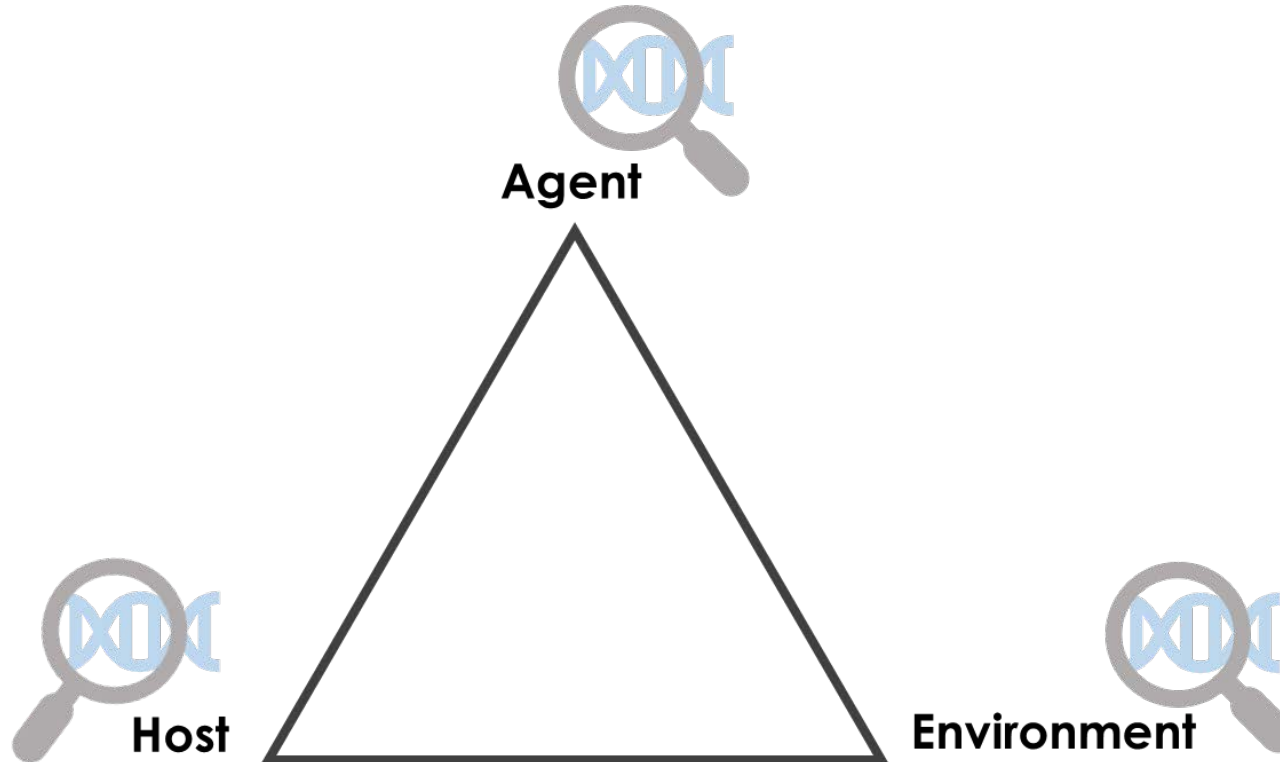




# Epidemiologic Triangle of Infectious Disease

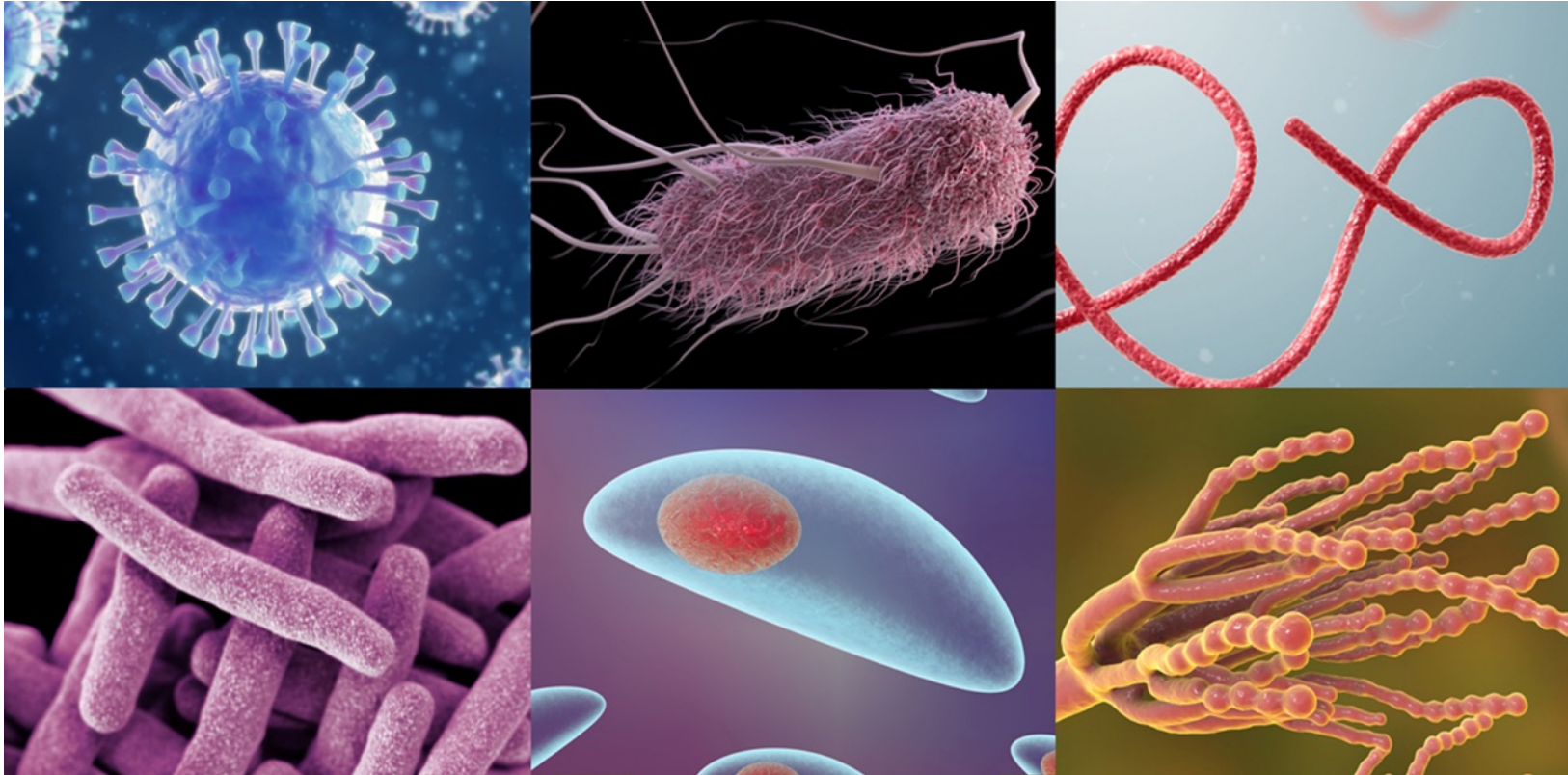


# Genomic Epidemiology: Building out the Epidemiologic Triangle (or...the more we can look at, the better we can see)



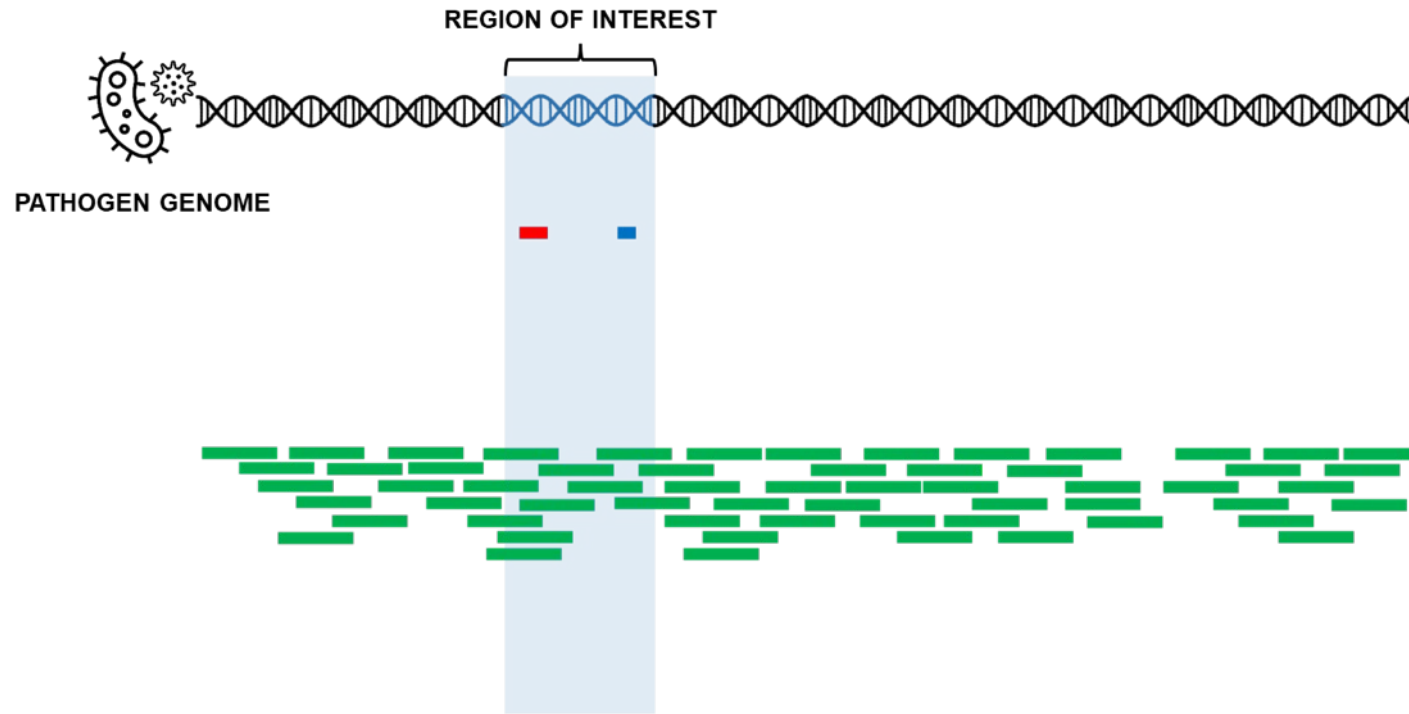


# Bringing Focus to Microbial Pathogens



Images: Virus (Getty Images), E. coli (PHIL- CDC), Ebola (Getty Images), Mycobacterium tuberculosis (PHIL - CDC), Toxoplasma gondii (Getty), Fungi Penicillium (Getty)

# Sequencing in Public Health



bp = base pair



**\$1,000/Mbase**  
<800bp/target

**SANGER SEQUENCING**

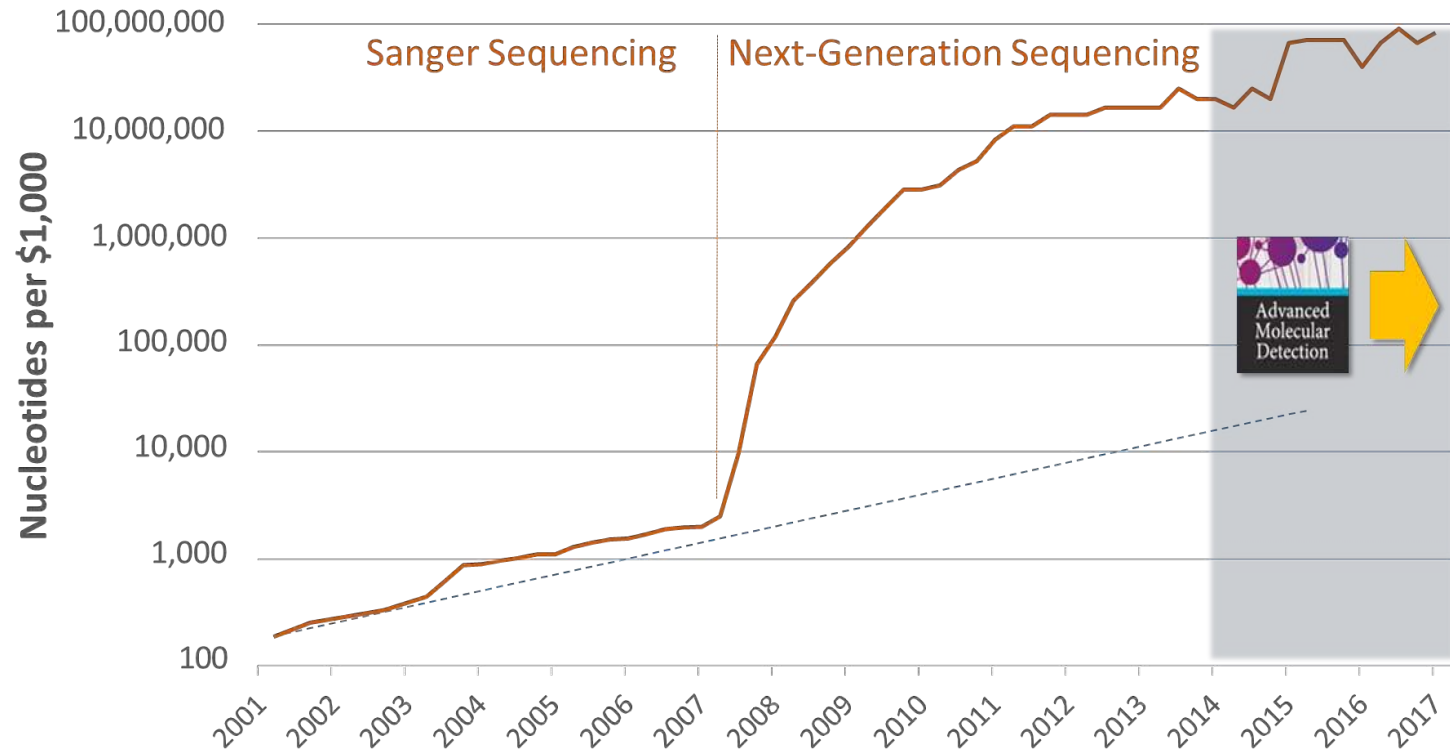


**\$0.01/Mbase**  
75-400bp; millions

**NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING**



# The Deep Impact of Next Generation Sequencing



Adapted from NHGRI (<https://www.genome.gov/sequencingcosts>)

# Next Generation Sequencing Technologies

Short Read ("2nd Generation")



Illumina  
MiSeq



ThermoFisher  
("IonTorrent")  
Ion S5

Single Molecule, Long-Read  
("3rd Generation")

PacBio  
Sequel

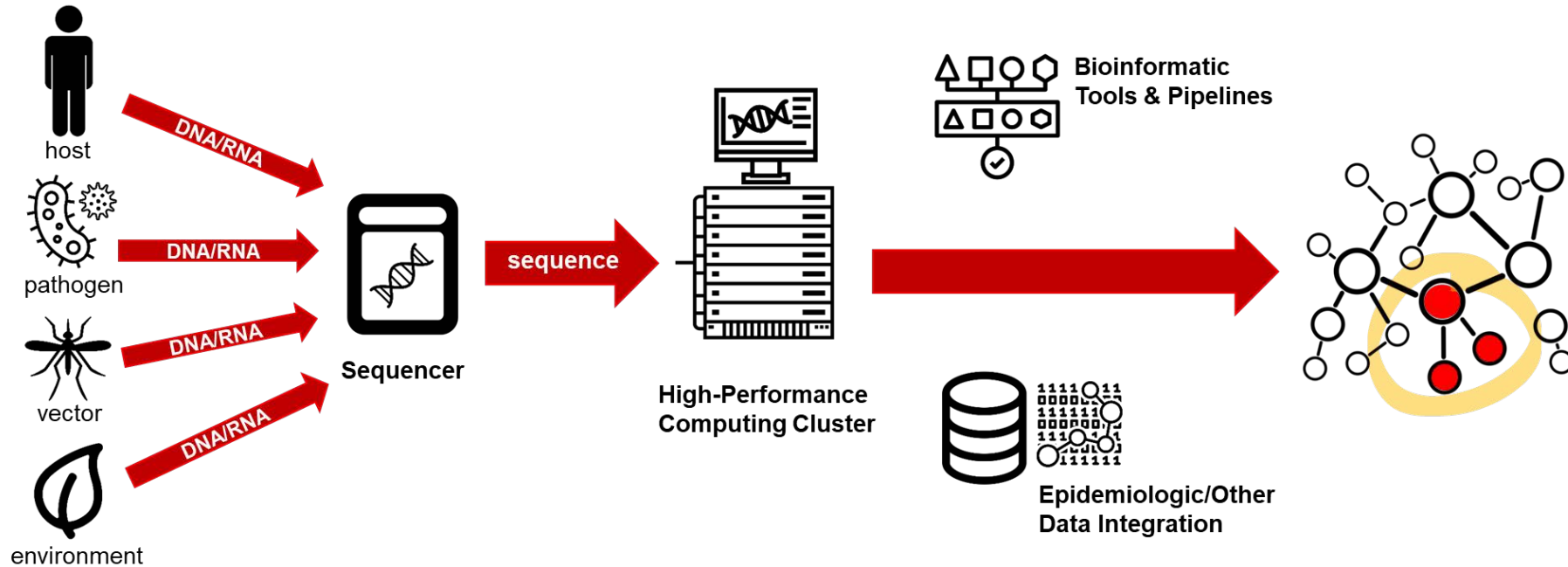


Oxford Nanopore  
MinION





# How is NGS Used in Public Health?



Armstrong G, et al. (2019)NEJM 381(26): 2569-2580.

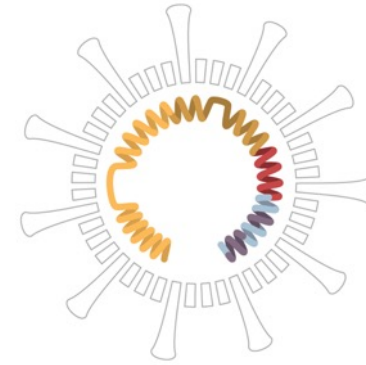


# Some Definitions

- **Strain:** a subdivision of a species
- **Phenotype:** an observable set of characteristics of an organism
- **Genotype:** the genetic makeup of an organism
- **Genome:** the entire set of genetic material of an organism
- **Genomics:** the study of genomes
- **Metagenomics:** the study of the ensemble of genomes from a mixture of organisms



# Utility of Sequencing



- Identification: a genomic “fingerprint”
- Comparison: of “fingerprints” to each other
  - **Link** pathogens with similar sequence
  - **Sort** pathogens into subgroups for epidemiologic analysis
- Function: biologically meaningful code that can be used to infer characteristics of an organism
- Universality: same methods for all microbial pathogens



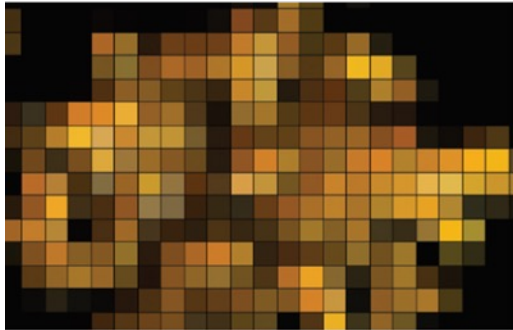
# Identification (Genetic Information is Structured)

```
CGTGGTATTTATGCTGCTGGAGGTTCCACAATTGCCTGA  
CTGCCGCGTGCGGAGCCATATTTATTCCCGTCAATCGTCT  
TCCCGCATACGCCAGGATAATCCAGCATAAACGATCCGA  
TTGTTCTTTCCGTATGTTTTGCGTTCATTTAACAATTGCA  
ATGCTGCTGGAGGTTGCTGGTATTTCCACAATTGCCTGA  
CTTTTTGCGTTGAGCCATATTTATTCCCGTCAATCGTCT  
TTCGCTTTATCGCCTAGACAAAACCTGCATAAAAAATTGA  
TTGCCCGCGCGTGTCCGGAAATGTGTTCAATTTAACAATT  
AAACCTGCATAAATTCGCTTTATCGCCTAGACAAAATTGA  
TCGGGA AATGTGTTCAATTTAACAATTGCCCGCGCGTGA
```

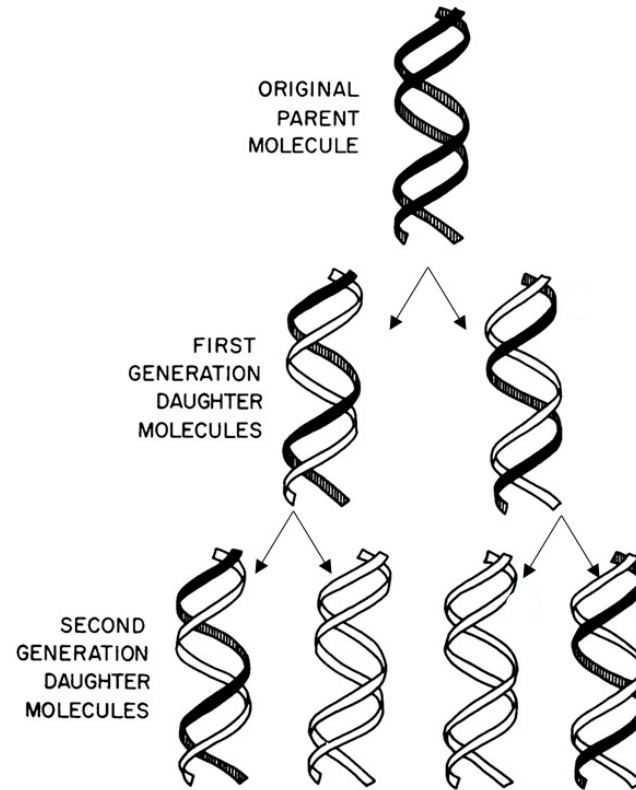




# More Data ~ Higher Resolution



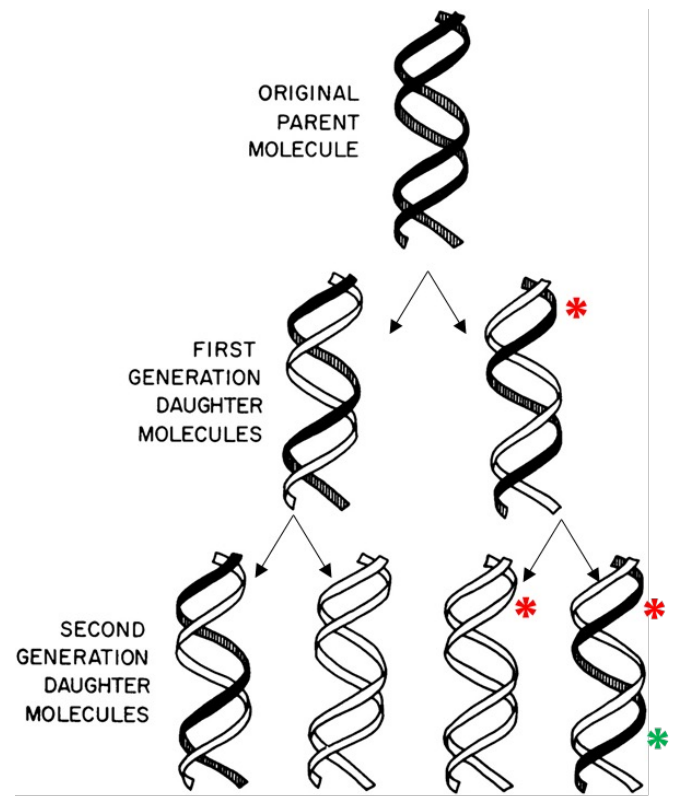
# Linking and Sorting (Genetic Information is Propagated)



Adapted from M Meselson and FW Stahl (1958) PNAS 44(7).



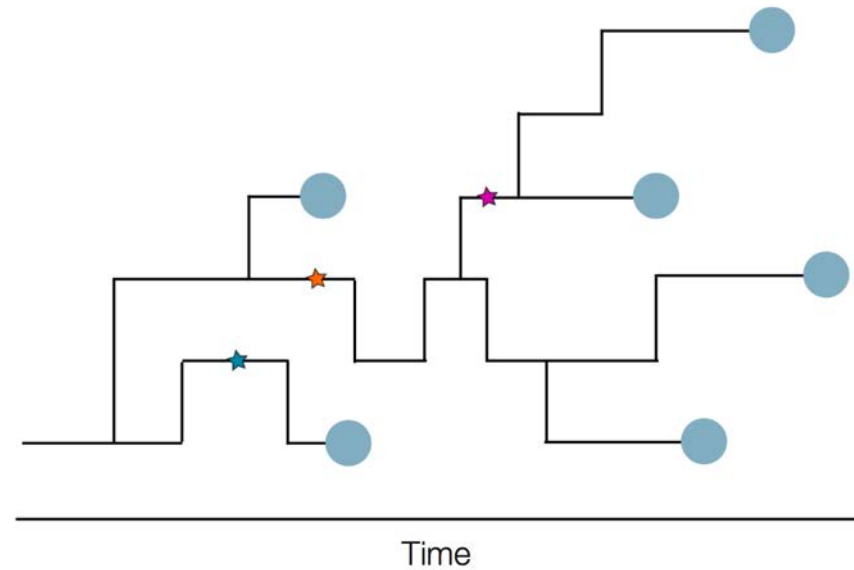
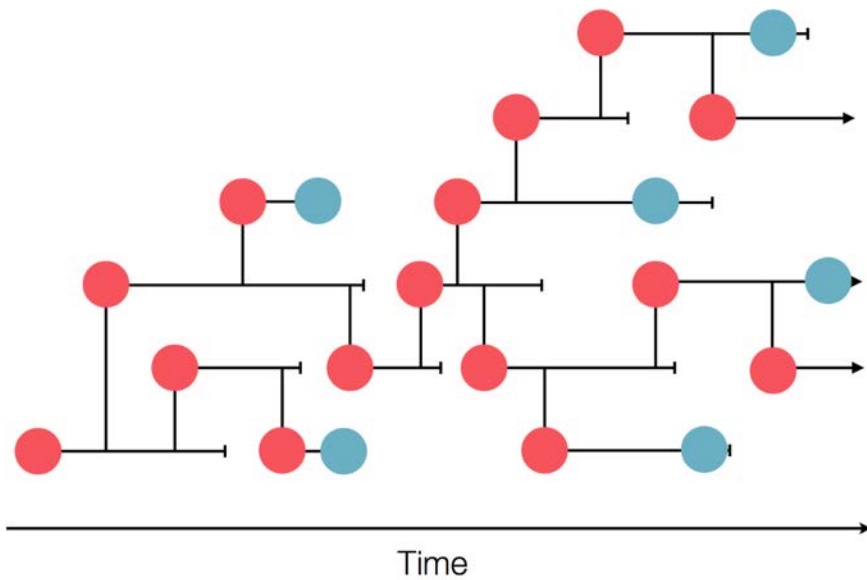
# Genomes are <sup>Imperfectly</sup> Copied as Microbes Replicate and Spread





# Inferring Relationships

Pathogens mutate as they spread, providing a “fingerprint” that can be used to infer ancestral relationships among sampled individuals.



Images from Trevor Bedford Group: <https://docs.nextstrain.org>

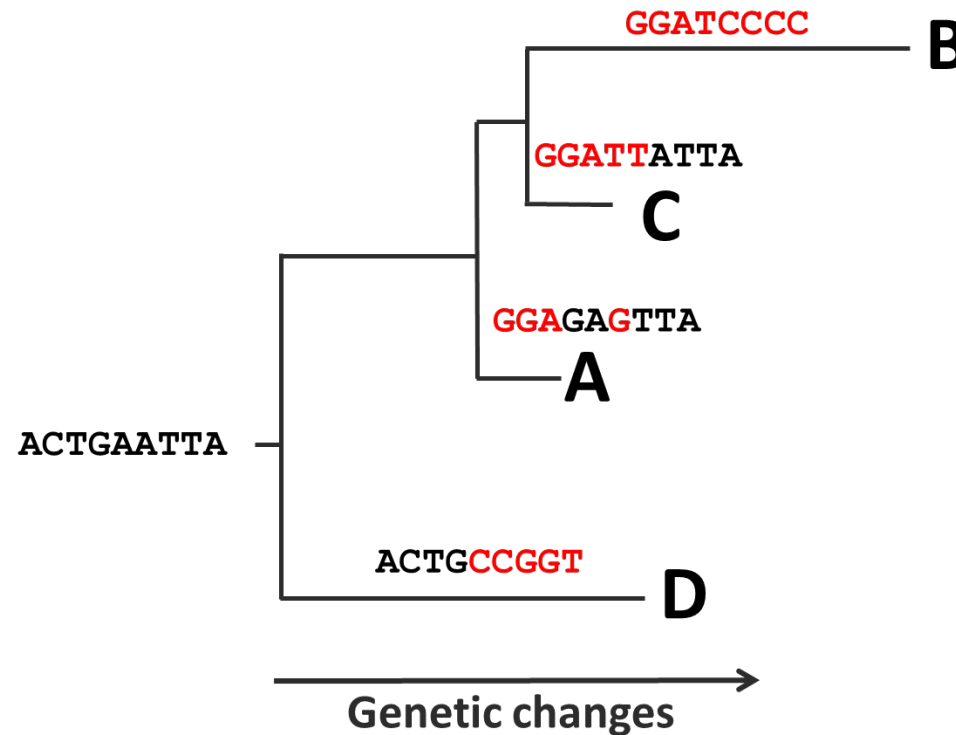
# Sequences are Related Evolutionarily

Isolate	Fingerprint
Ancestor	<b>ACTGAATTA</b>
A	<b>GGAGAGTTA</b>
B	<b>GGATCCCCC</b>
C	<b>GGATTATTA</b>
D	<b>ACTGCCGGT</b>

[www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html)

# Relationships are Shown by Phylogenetic Trees

Isolate	Fingerprint
Ancestor	<b>ACTGAATTA</b>
A	<b>GGAGAGTTA</b>
B	<b>GGATCCCCC</b>
C	<b>GGATTATTA</b>
D	<b>ACTGCCGGT</b>

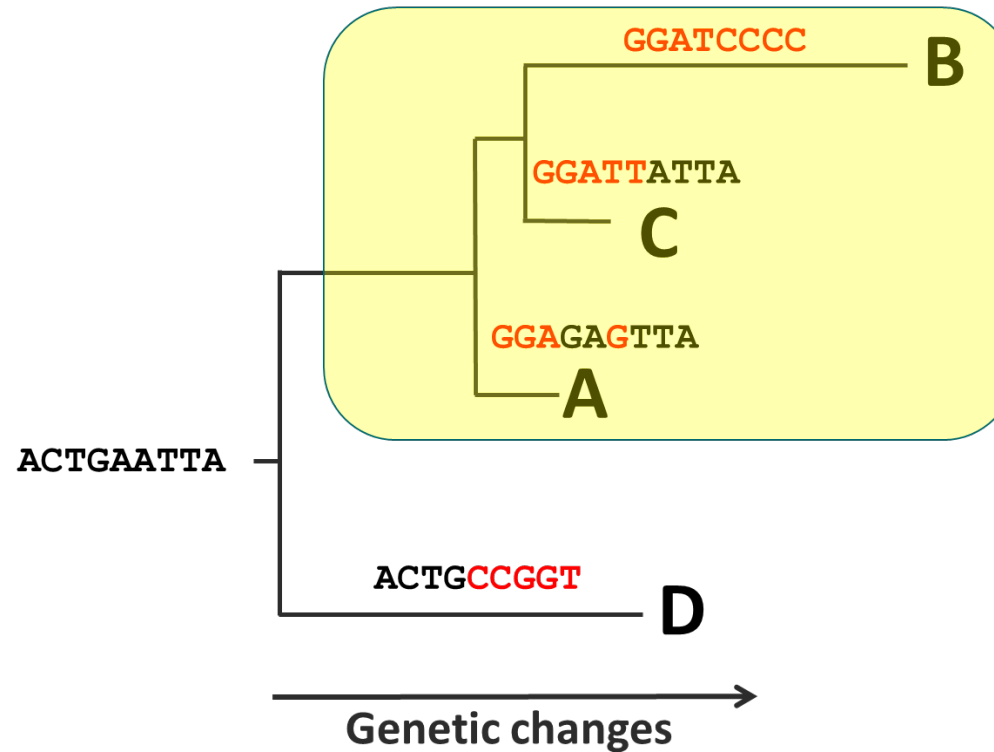


[www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html)



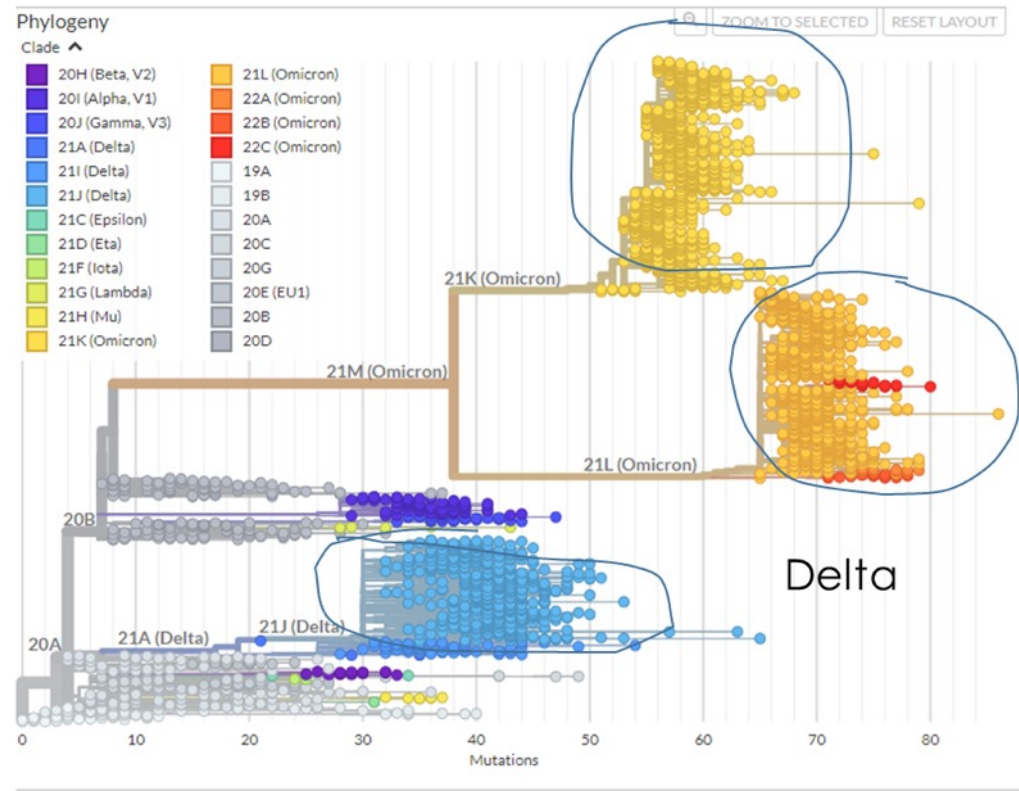
# Phylogenetic Trees Reveal Groupings

Isolate	Fingerprint
Ancestor	<b>ACTGAATTA</b>
A	<b>GGAGAGTTA</b>
B	<b>GGATCCCCC</b>
C	<b>GGATTATTA</b>
D	<b>ACTGCCGGT</b>



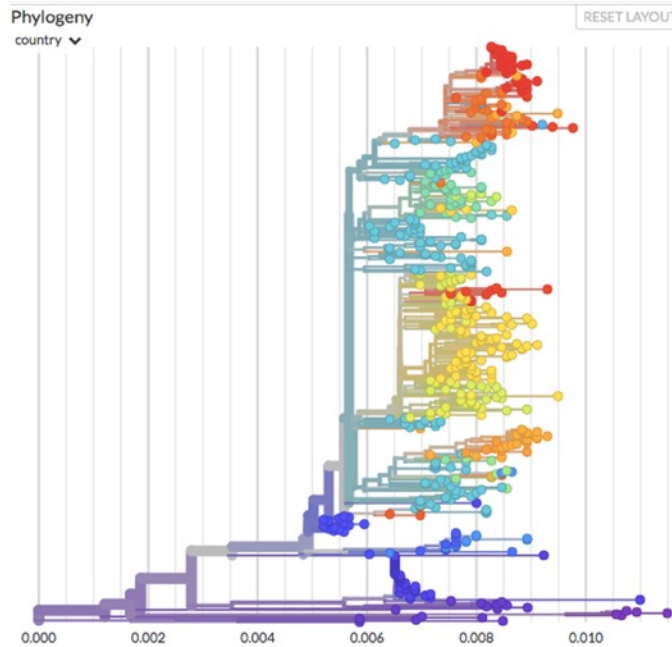
[www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html](http://www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html)

# Sorting and Categorizing

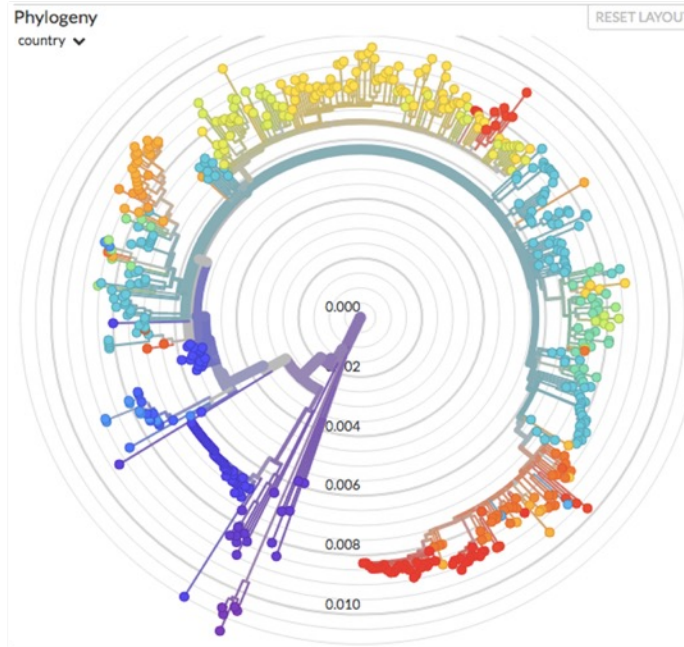


Source: nextstrain.org

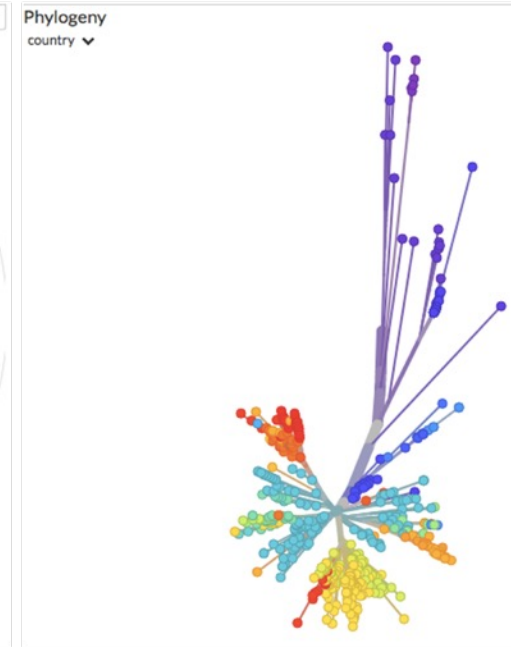
# Same Tree, Different Representations



**Rectangular Rooted trees**  
(when outgroup is known)



**Radial Rooted trees**  
(when outgroup is known)



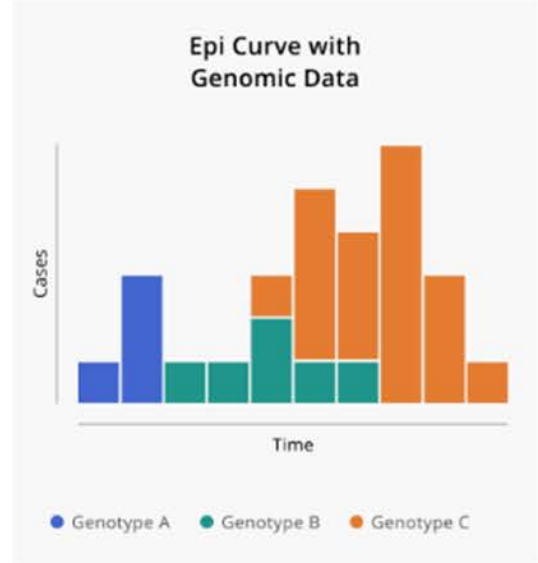
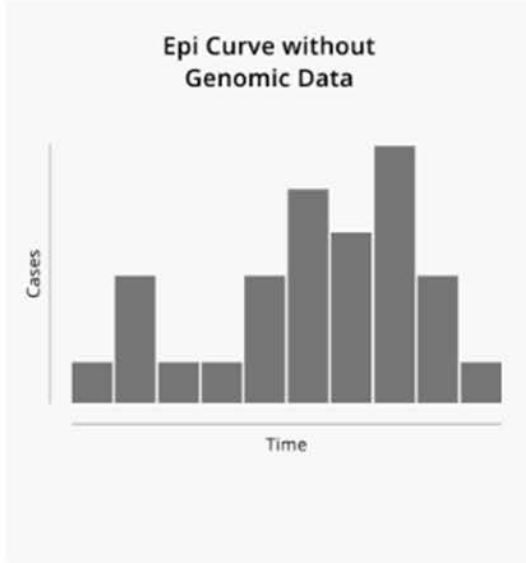
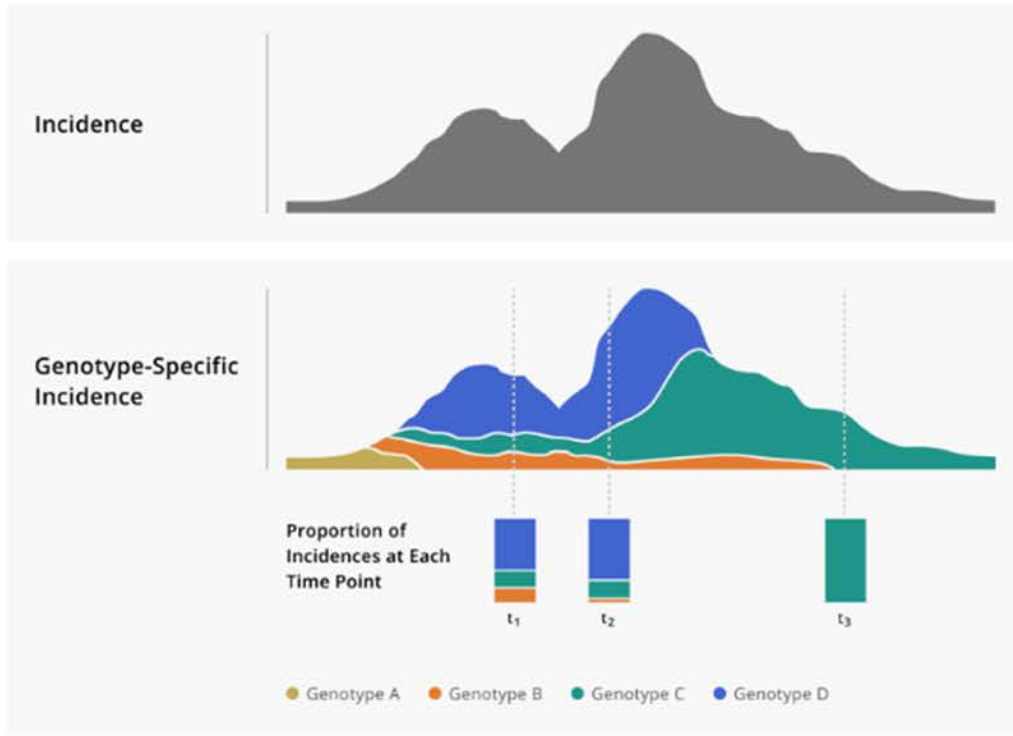
**Unrooted tree**  
(direction of evolution unknown)

Adapted from Nathan Grubaugh Source: [nextstrain.org](https://nextstrain.org)





# Increased Granularity

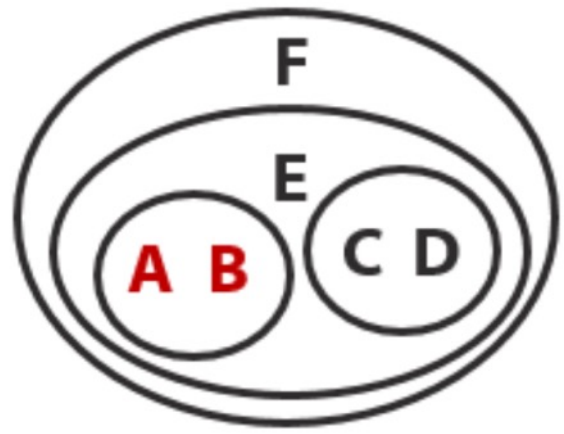
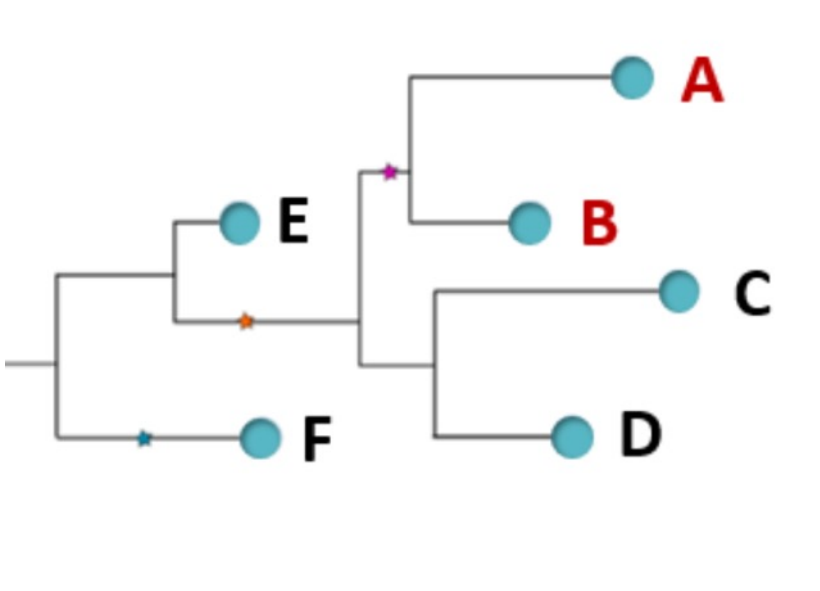


<https://alliblk.github.io/genepi-book>





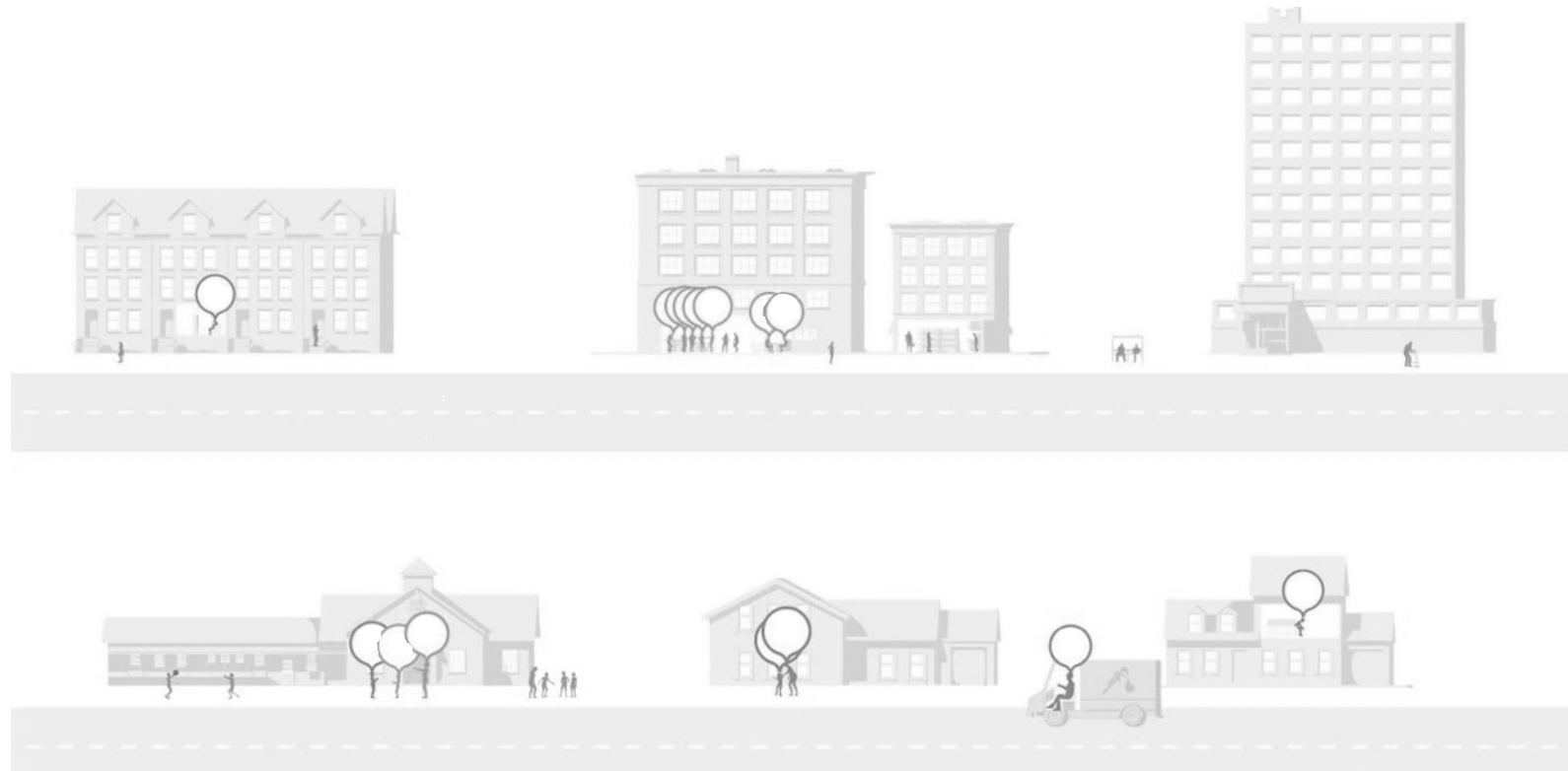
# Strains that are Phylogenetically Closer are More Likely to Share an Epidemiological Link



Images from Trevor Bedford Group: <https://docs.nextstrain.org>



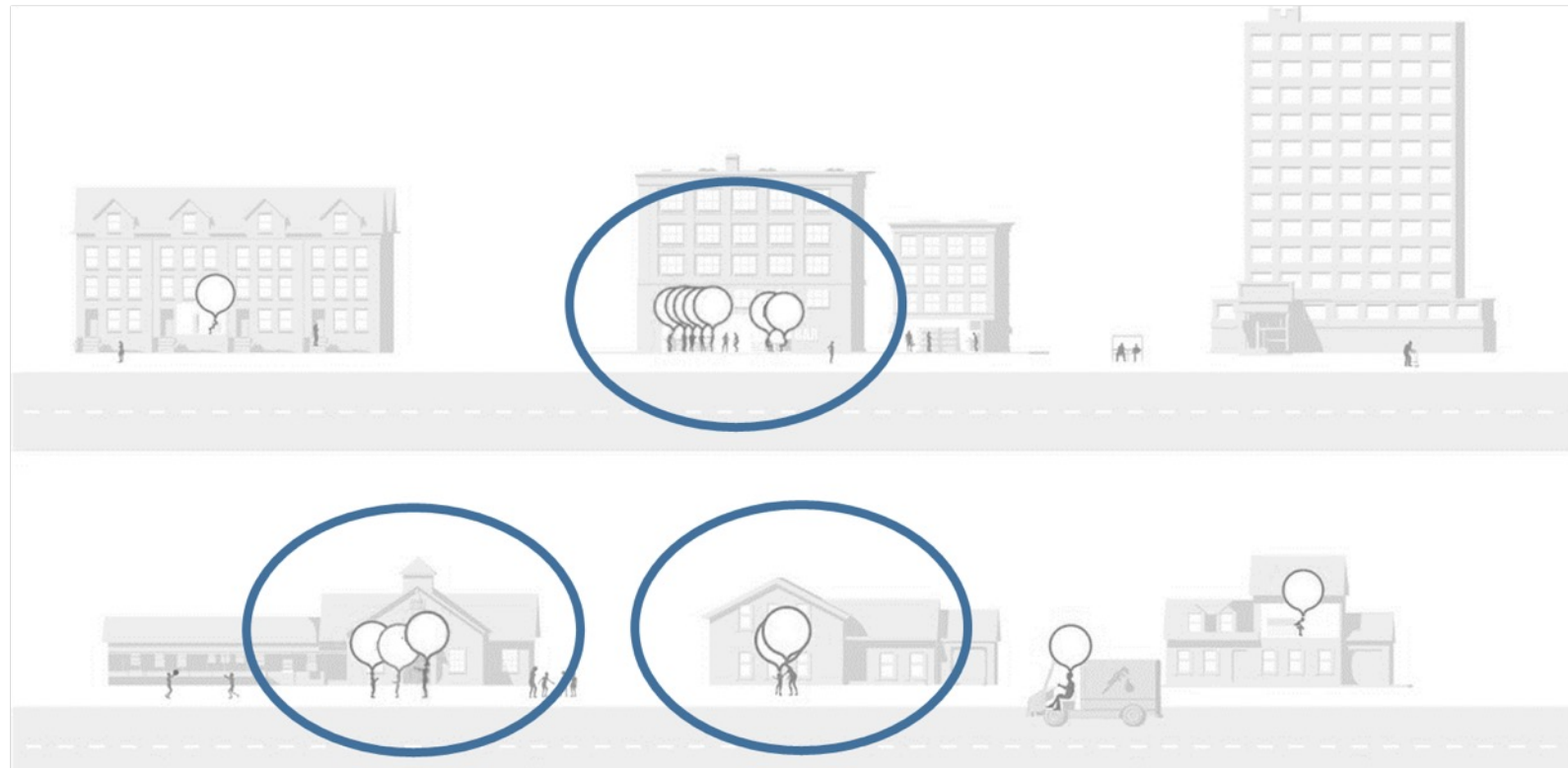
# Linking: Host-only View



Adapted from The Washington Post article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-genetic-code/>

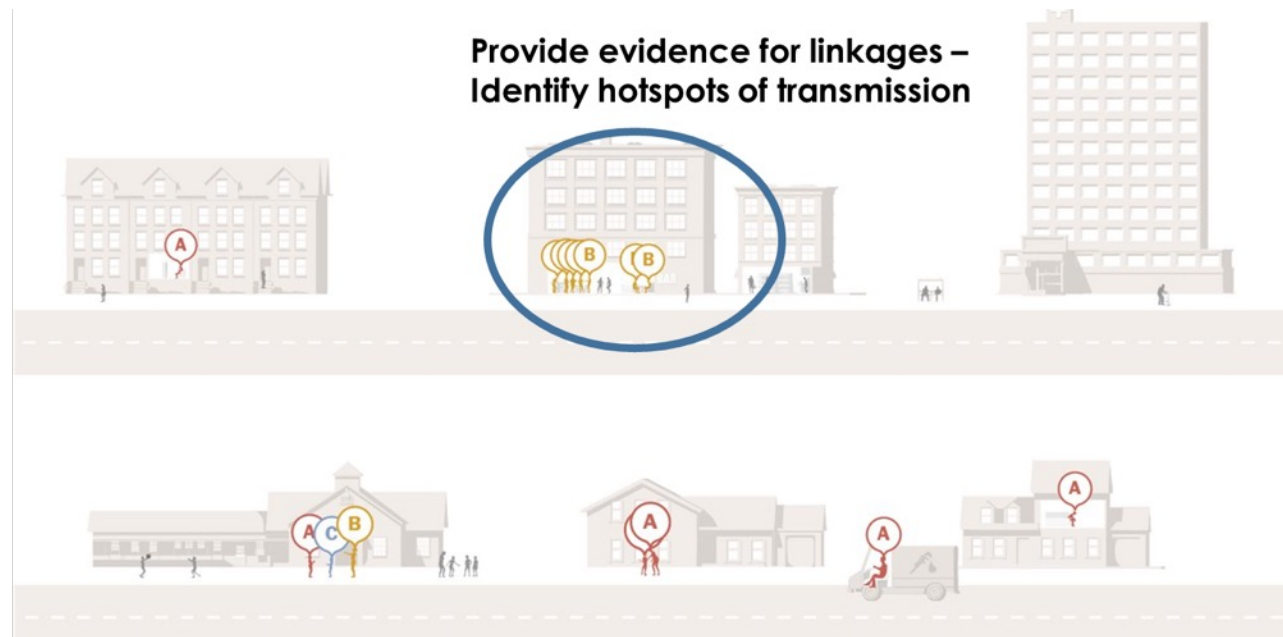
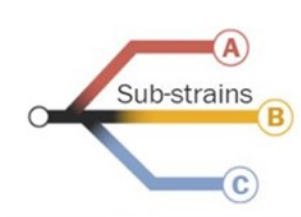


# Linking: Host-only View



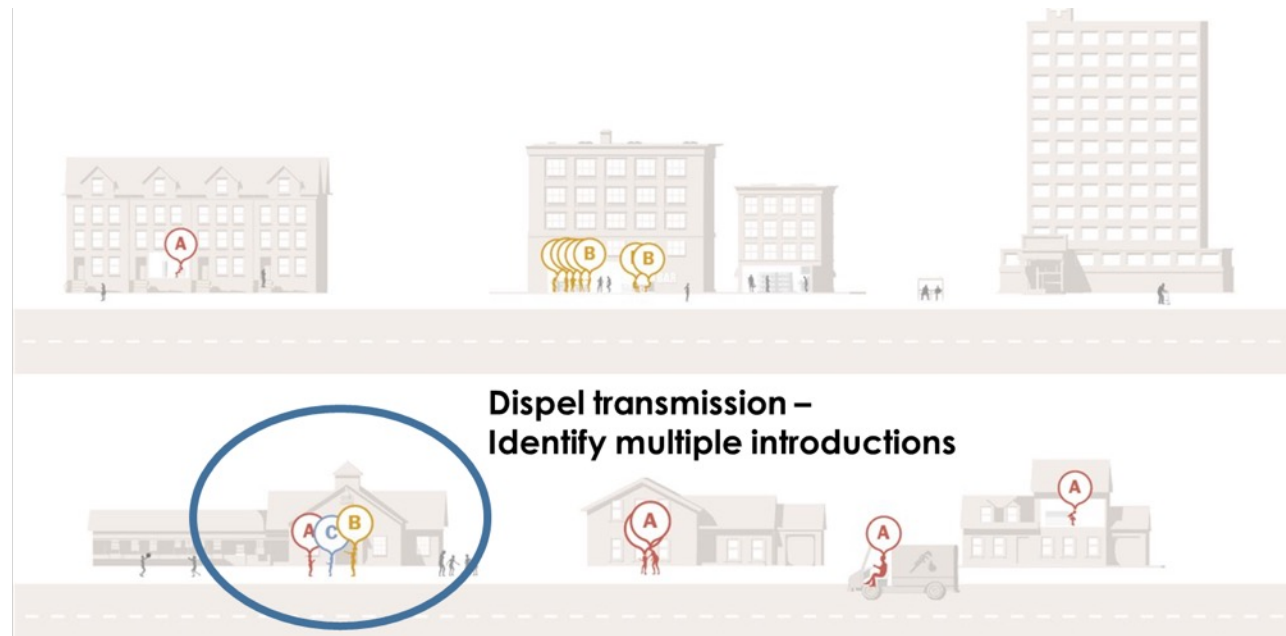
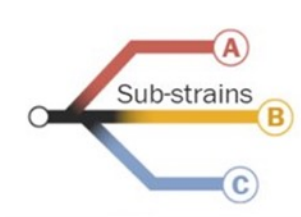
Adapted from The Washington Post article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-genetic-code/>

# Linking: Host + Pathogen View



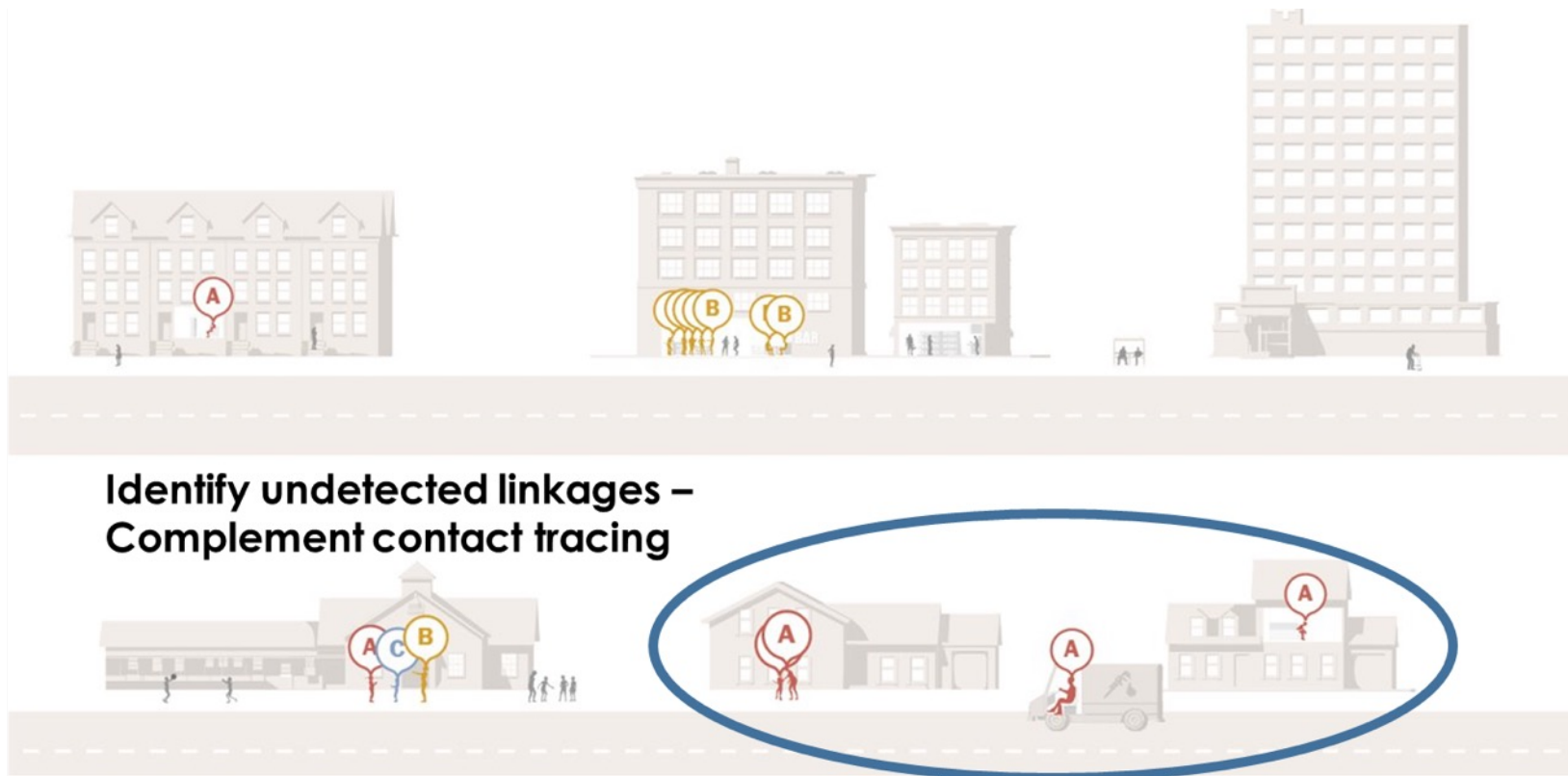
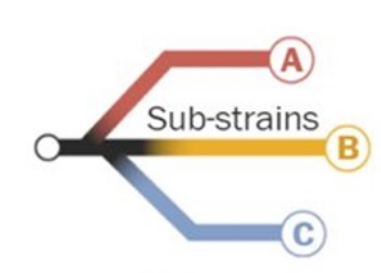
Adapted from The Washington Post article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-genetic-code/>

# Linking: Host + Pathogen View



Adapted from The Washington Post article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-genetic-code/>

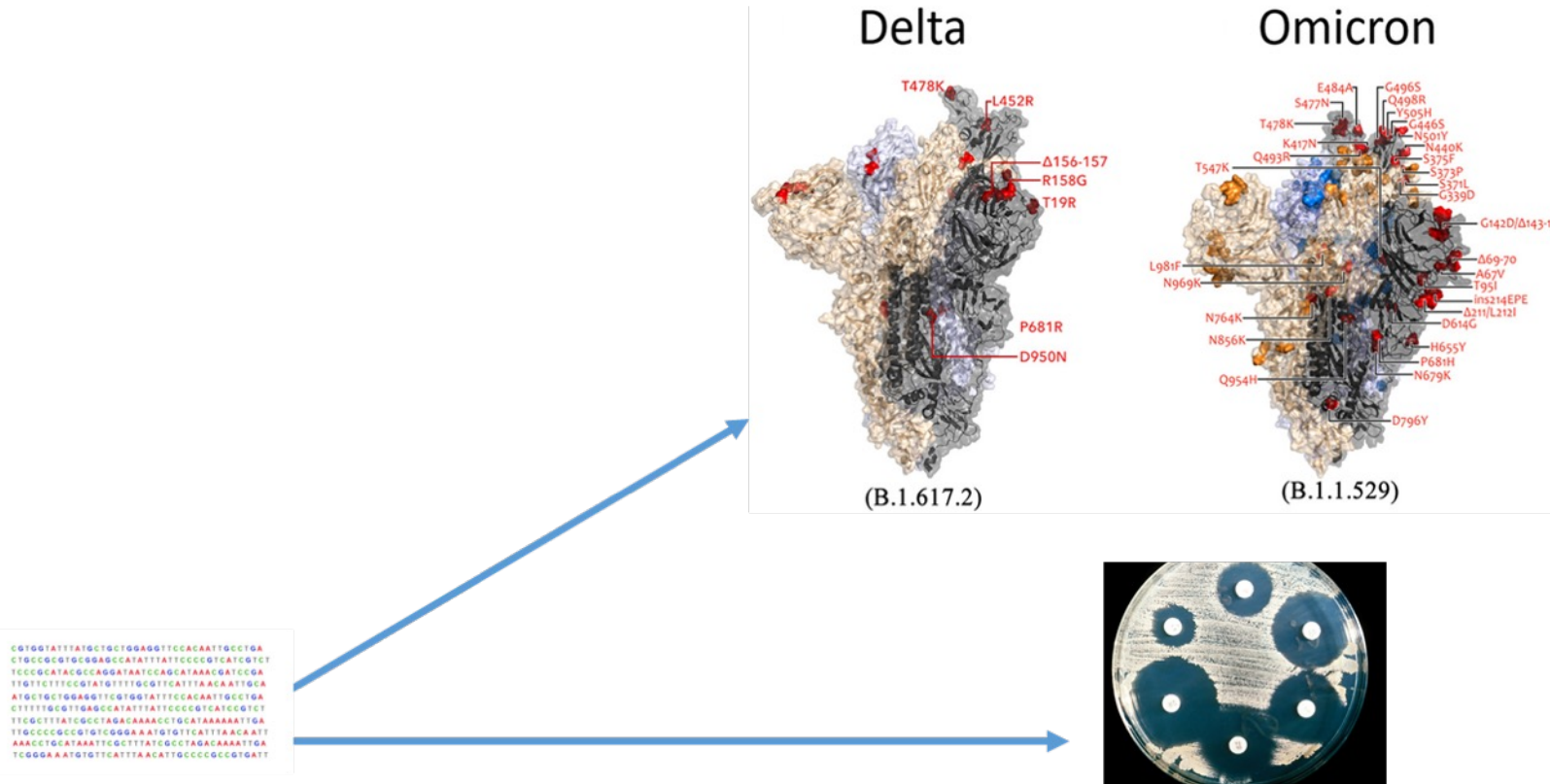
# Linking: Host + Pathogen View







# Decoding (Genetic Information is a Biological Code)



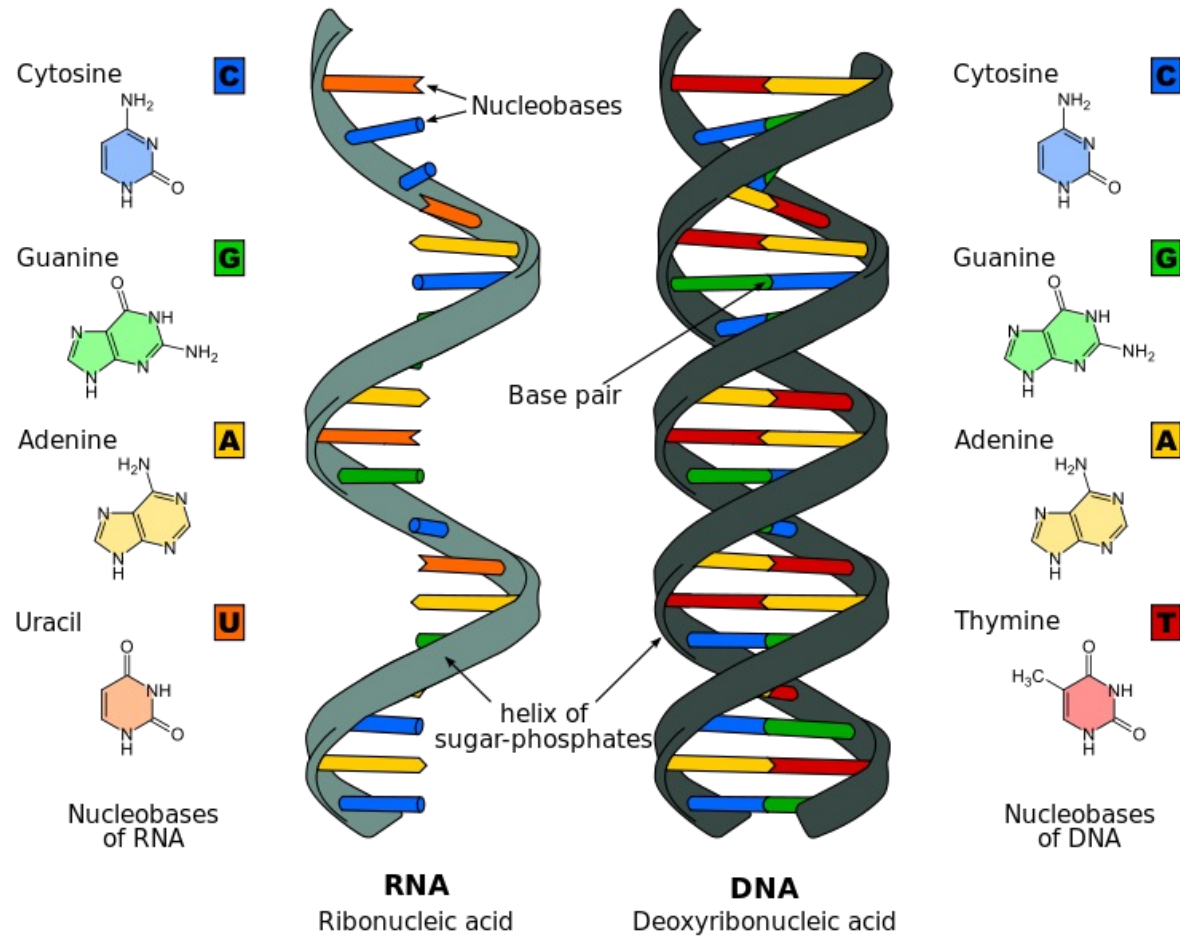
Kumar S, et al. (2021) J Med Virol, doi: 10.1002:mv.27526



# Phenotypes Inferred from Genotype

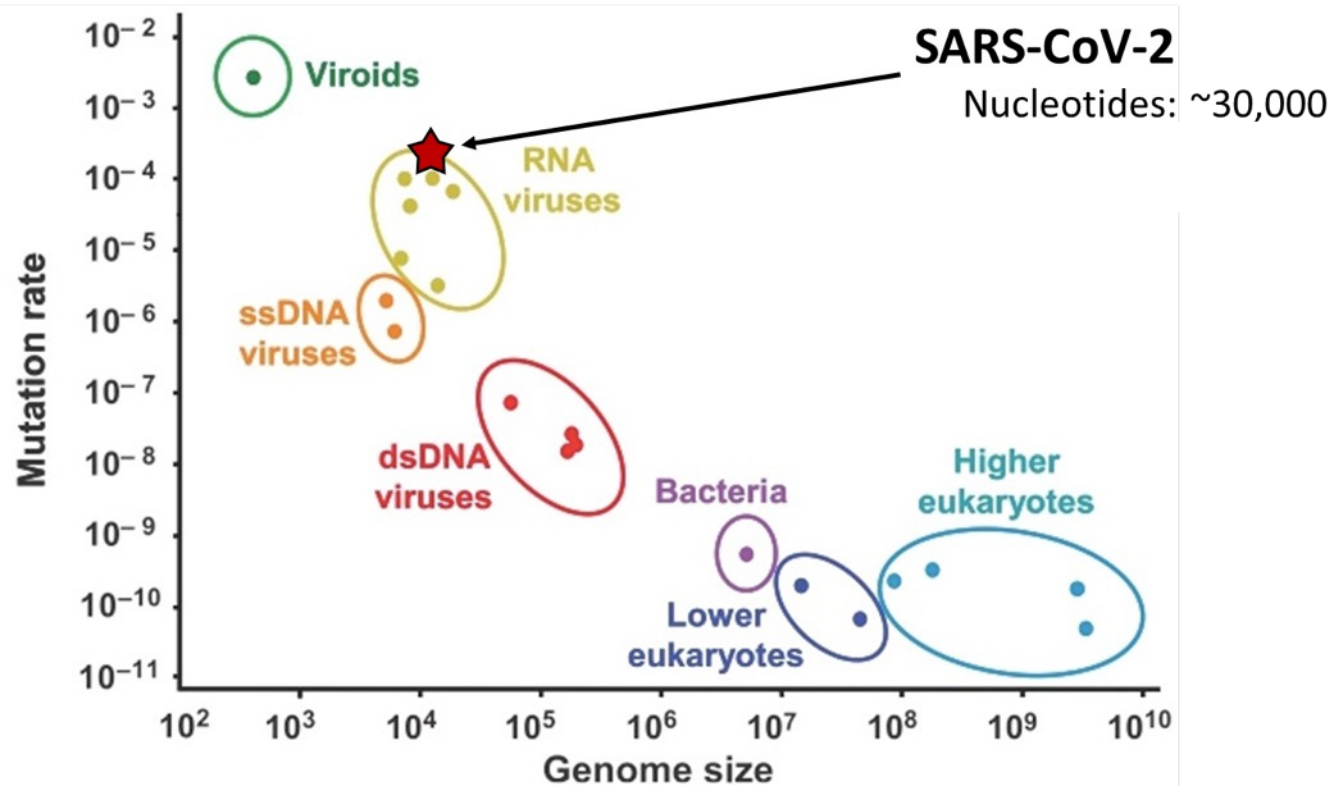
- Bacteria
  - Antibiotic resistance (many examples)
  - Serotype, serogroup (e.g., pneumococcus, meningococcus, *E. coli*, *Salmonella*)
  - Virulence factors (e.g., STEC)
- Viruses
  - Serotype, antigen type (e.g., influenza, enteroviruses)
  - Antiviral resistance (e.g., oseltamivir resistance in influenza, HIV resistance)
- Eukaryotic pathogens
  - Species (blood pathogens)
  - Resistance (malaria)

# Universality: Nucleotides are the Building Blocks of Genomes



"Chemical structures of nucleases" by Roland1952 licensed under CC by 3.0

# Variations in Genome Size



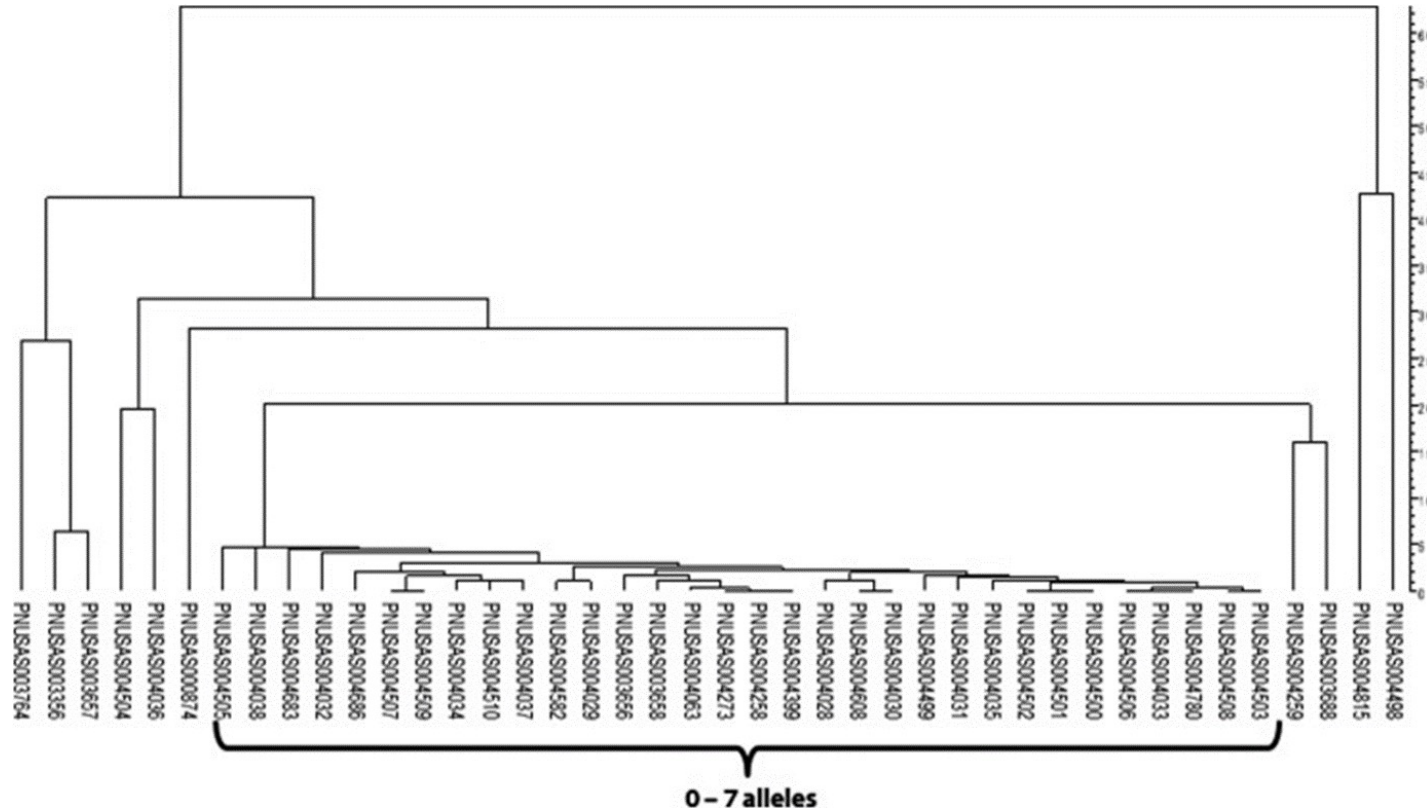




# Analyzing Different Types of Data Together

- Pathogen genetic relatedness
- Source type (human, food, animal, environment, etc.)
- Time
- Place
- Social Contact
- Clinical Features
- Many more possibilities...

# Closely Related Isolates



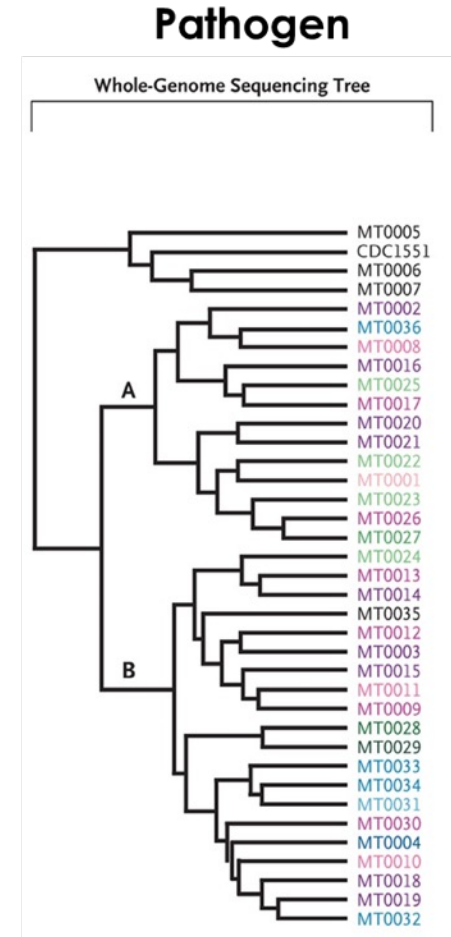
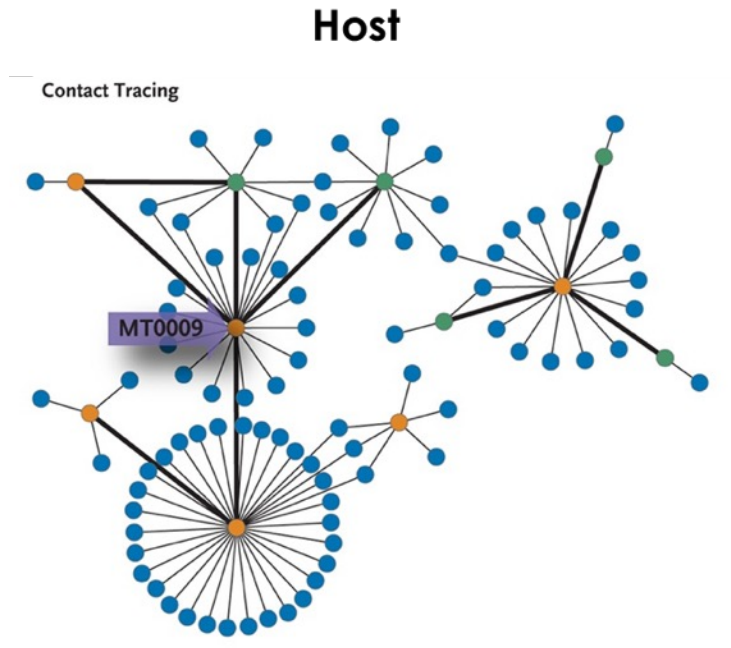
Brown E, et al. (2019) 16 (7)441-450.

# Genomic Data + Source Type



Stevens EL, et al. (2022) J Food Prot. 1; 85(5).

# Multiple Streams of Information



Adapted from Gardy JL, et al. (2011) NEJM 364(8):730-9.





# Key Question

Where is transmission occurring?

# SARS-CoV-2: Where is Transmission Occurring?

- Outbreaks in multiple congregate settings in Minnesota  
March-June, 2020
- Long-term care facilities, meat-packing plant
- Hypothesis 1
  - Transmission among cases is primarily occurring in the congregate setting
  - Expected sequencing result: SARS-CoV-2 genomes from most cases in the congregate setting are *closely related, supporting a single introduction*
- Hypothesis 2
  - Cases are exposed to SARS-CoV-2 in the community, outside the congregate setting
  - Expected sequencing result: SARS-CoV-2 genomes from most cases in the congregate setting are *distantly related, supporting multiple introductions*
- Implications: focus of prevention efforts

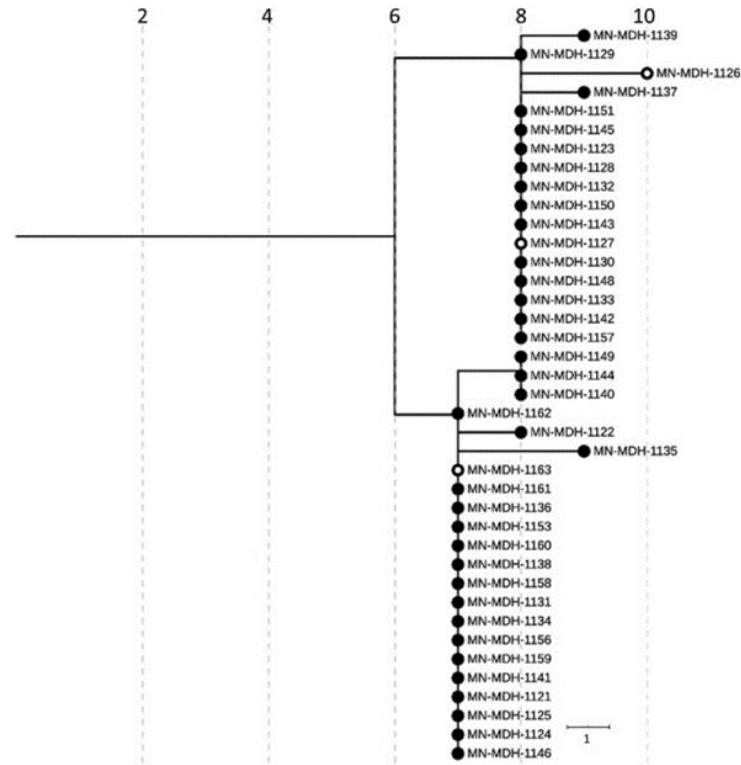


[www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html](https://www.cdc.gov/amd/training/covid-19-gen-epi-toolkit.html)

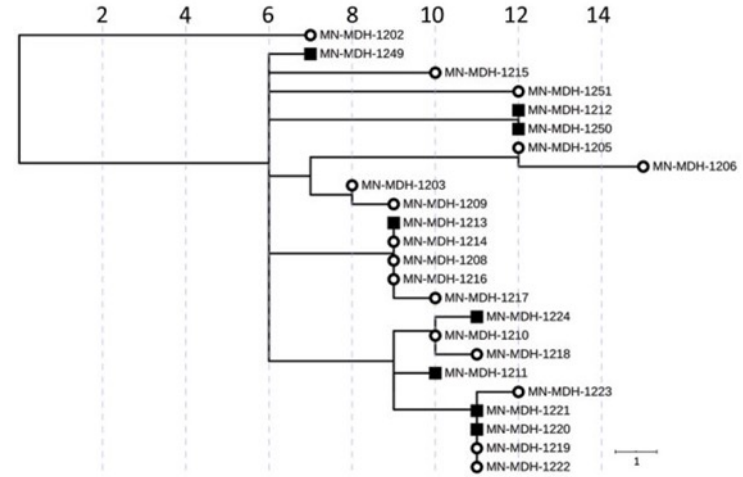
Adapted from The Washington Post article: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-genetic-code/>

# Different Patterns in Different Facility Types

Long-term Care Facility



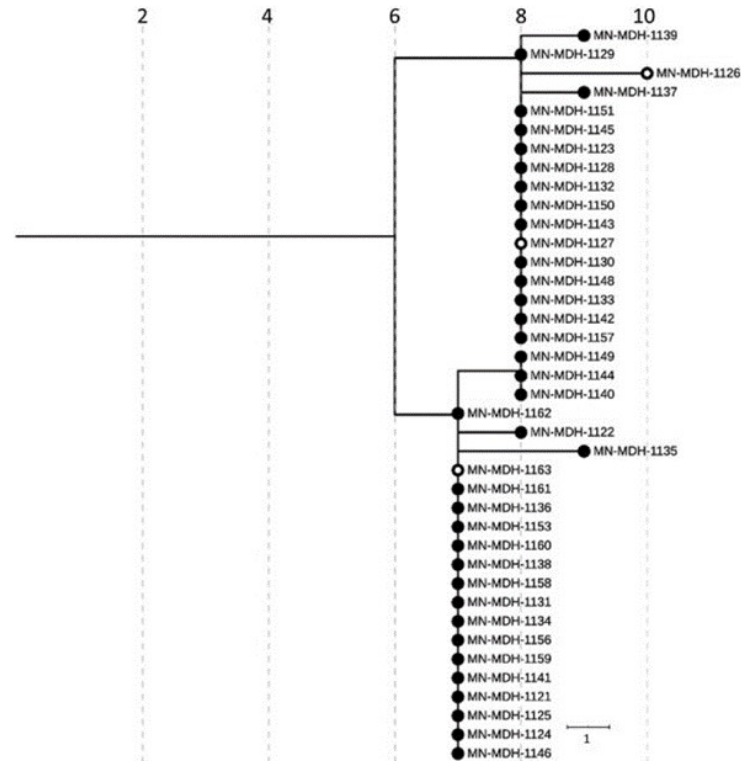
Meat-packing Plant



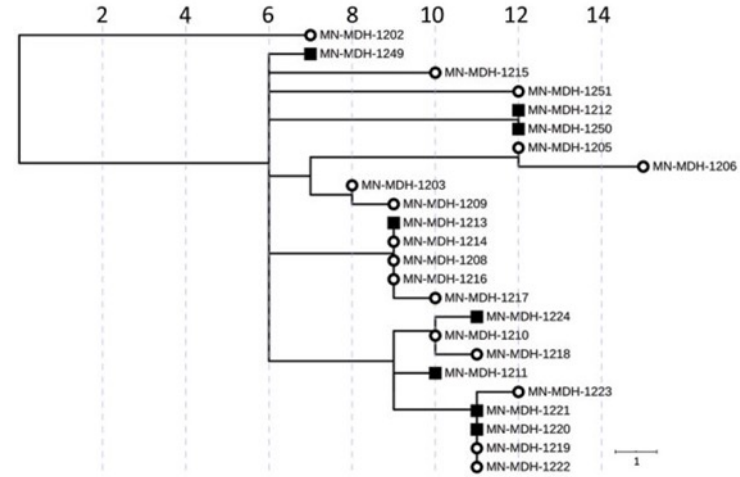
Lehnertz NB, et al. (2021) Emerg Infect Dis. 27(8):2052-2063.

# Different Patterns in Different Facility Types

Long-term Care Facility



Meat-packing Plant



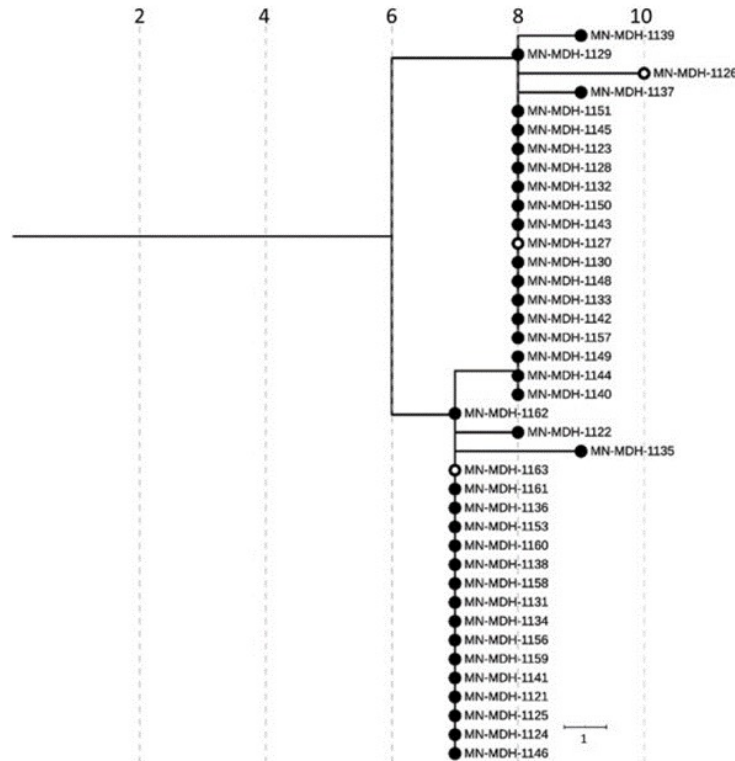
- Few introductions, extensive within-facility transmission
- Prevention target: Infection-control practices

Lehnertz NB, et al. (2021) Emerg Infect Dis. 27(8):2052-2063.



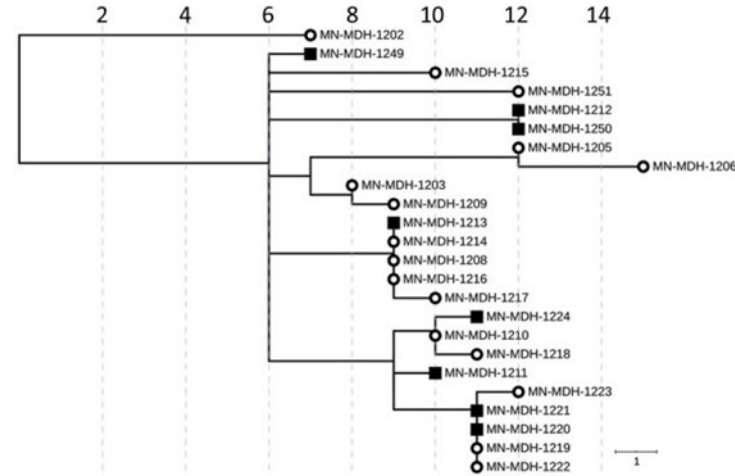
# Different Patterns in Different Facility Types

Long-term Care Facility



- Few introductions, extensive within-facility transmission
- Prevention target: Infection-control practices

Meat-packing Plant



- Multiple introductions, limited within-facility transmission
- Prevention target: community transmission

Lehnertz NB, et al. (2021) Emerg Infect Dis. 27(8):2052-2063.

# Foodborne Illnesses

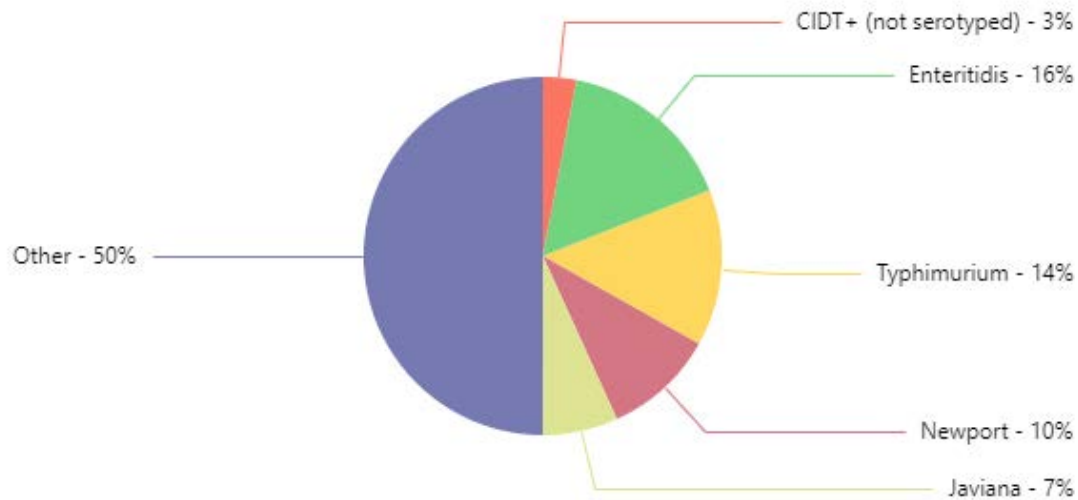
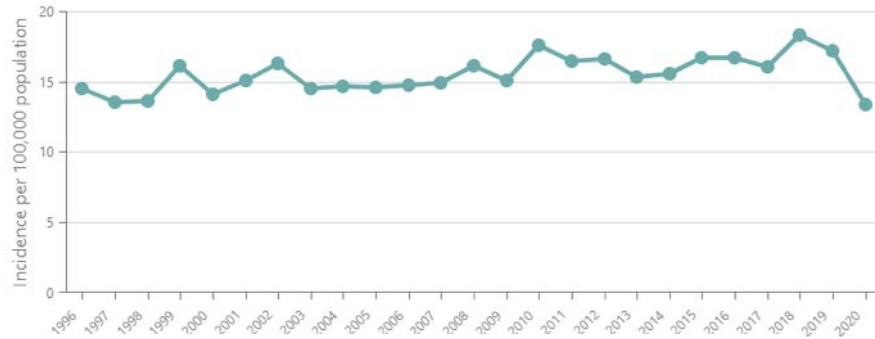


CDC estimates that each year 48 million people get sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die.

<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/foodborne-germs.html>

# Foodborne Illness

Salmonella Infections by Year; 1996-2022



PulseNet surveillance



PFGE **WGS**

Pulsed-Field Gel Electrophoresis || Whole Genome Sequencing

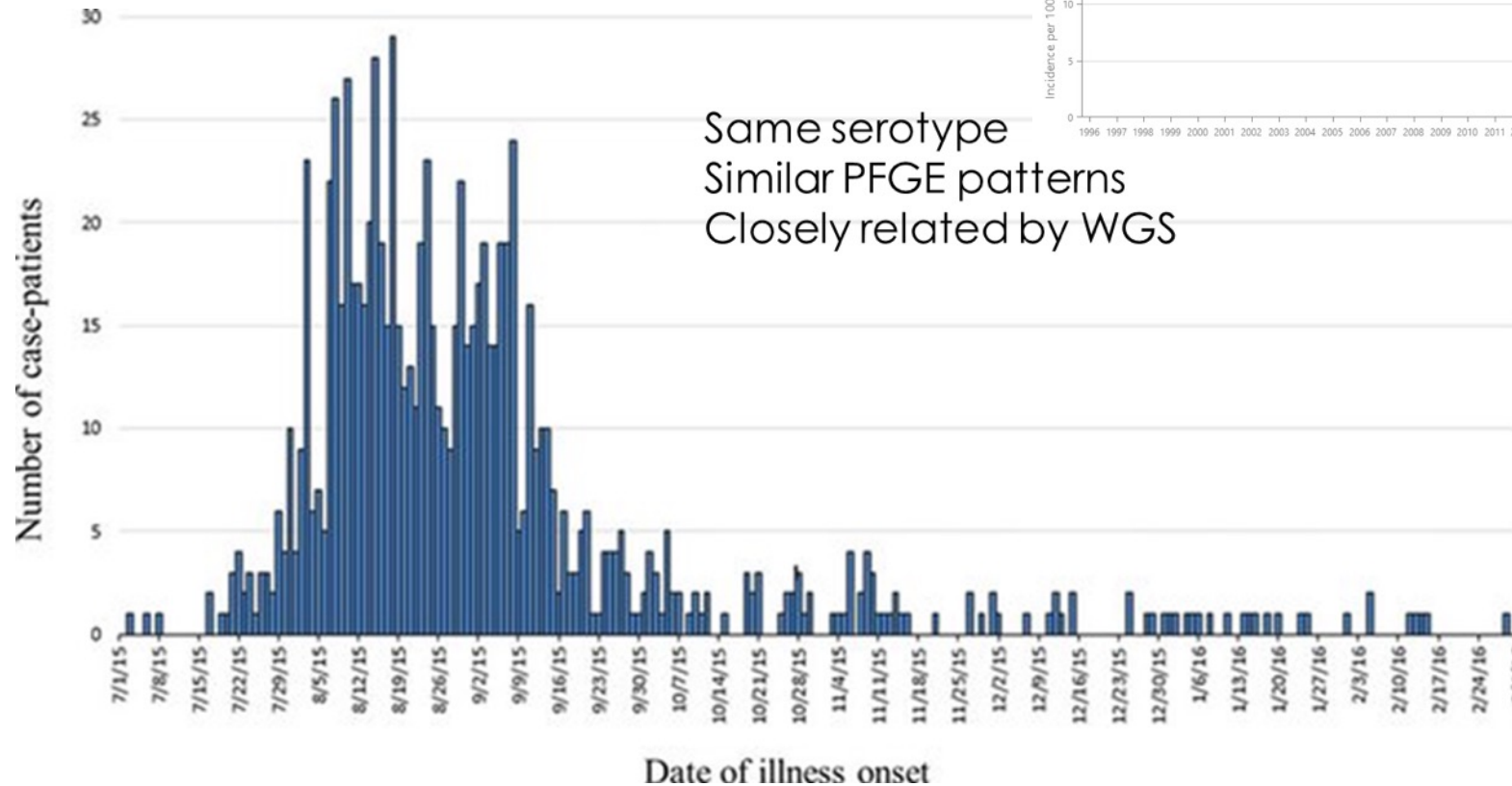
Adapted from <https://www.cdc.gov/foodnet/index.html>



# Key Question

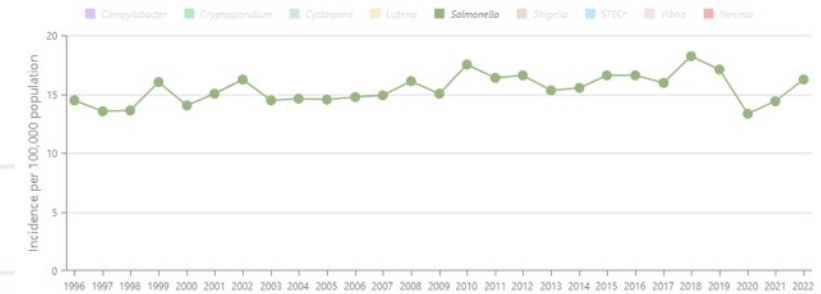
Is there an outbreak?

# An Outbreak: *Salmonella* Poona (Genomic Data + Time)



Infections by year; 1996-2022

Incidence per 100,000 population – FoodNet sites; all test methods  
+ Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*  
Source: FoodNet, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

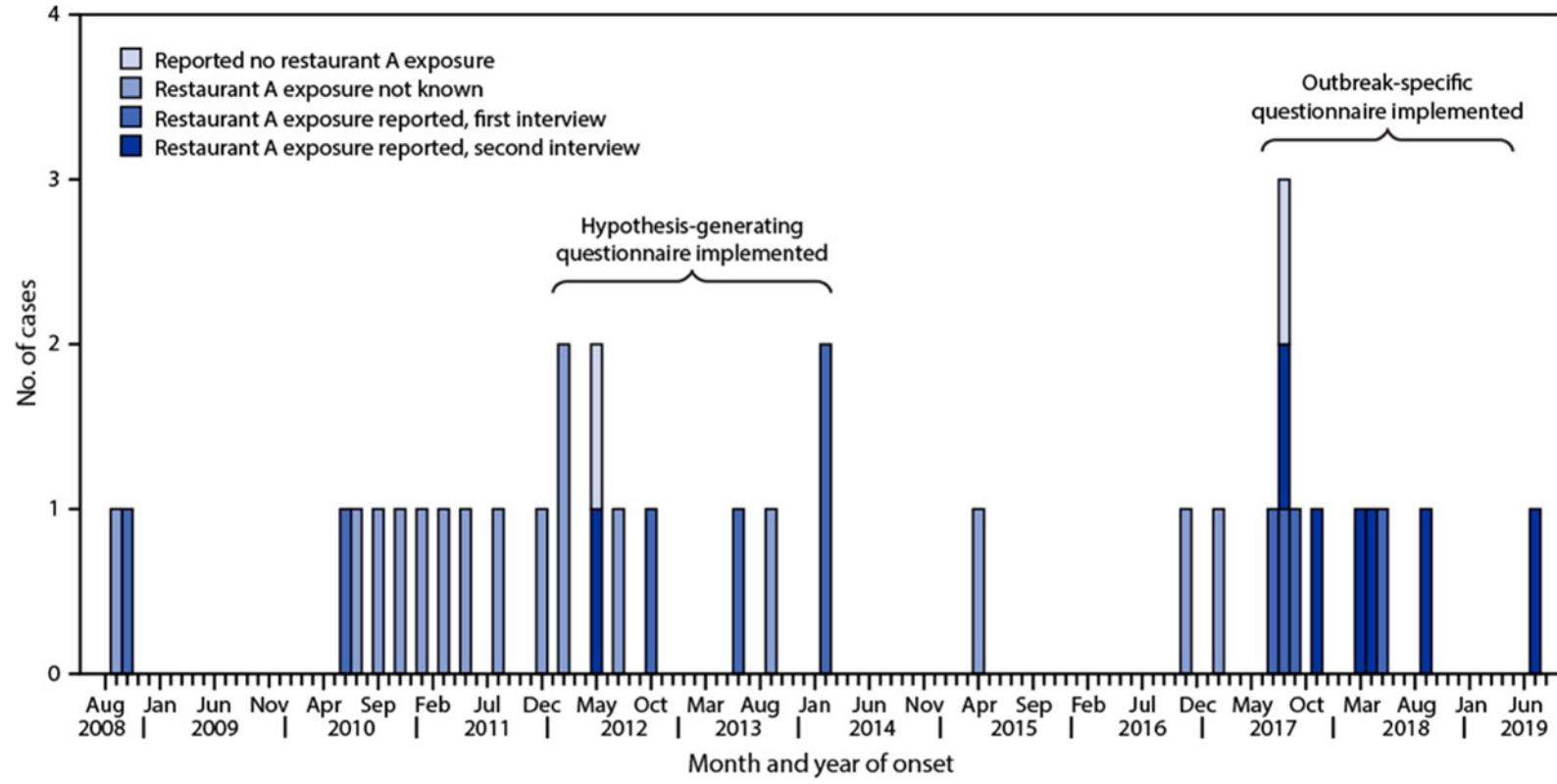


Laughlin M, et al. (2019) *Epidemiology and Infection*. 147, e270, 1-6.





# Also an Outbreak: *Salmonella* Mbandaka (Genomic Data+ Time)



Nettleton WD, et al. (2021) MMWR 70(33): 1109-1113.





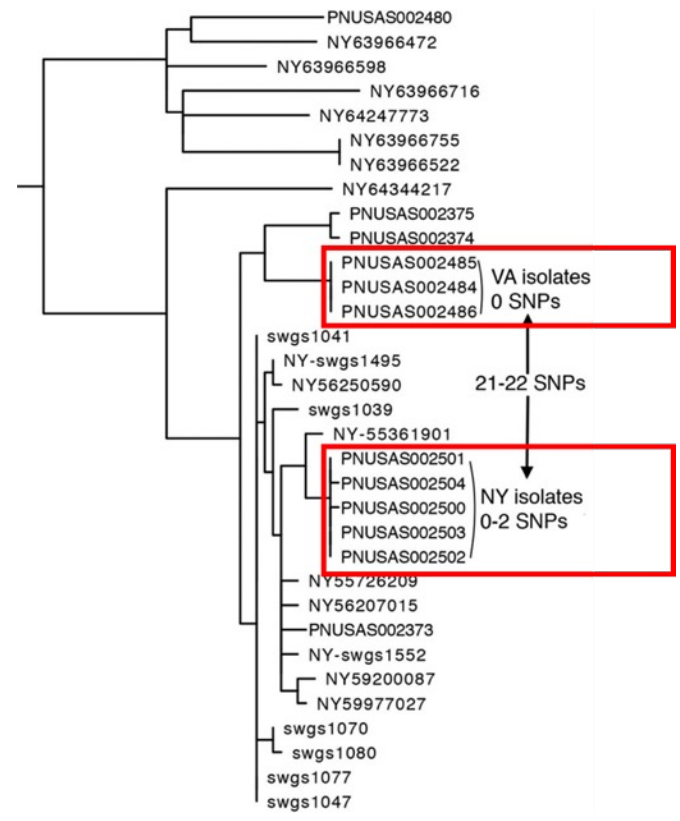
# One Outbreak or Two?

Concurrent *Salmonella* Enteritidis outbreaks  
at correctional facilities in Virginia and New York



# Two Separate Outbreaks

Concurrent *Salmonella* Enteritidis outbreaks at correctional facilities in Virginia and New York



Kubota KA, et al. (2019) Public Health Rep; Nov/Dec 2019; 134(2\_suppl):22S-28S.



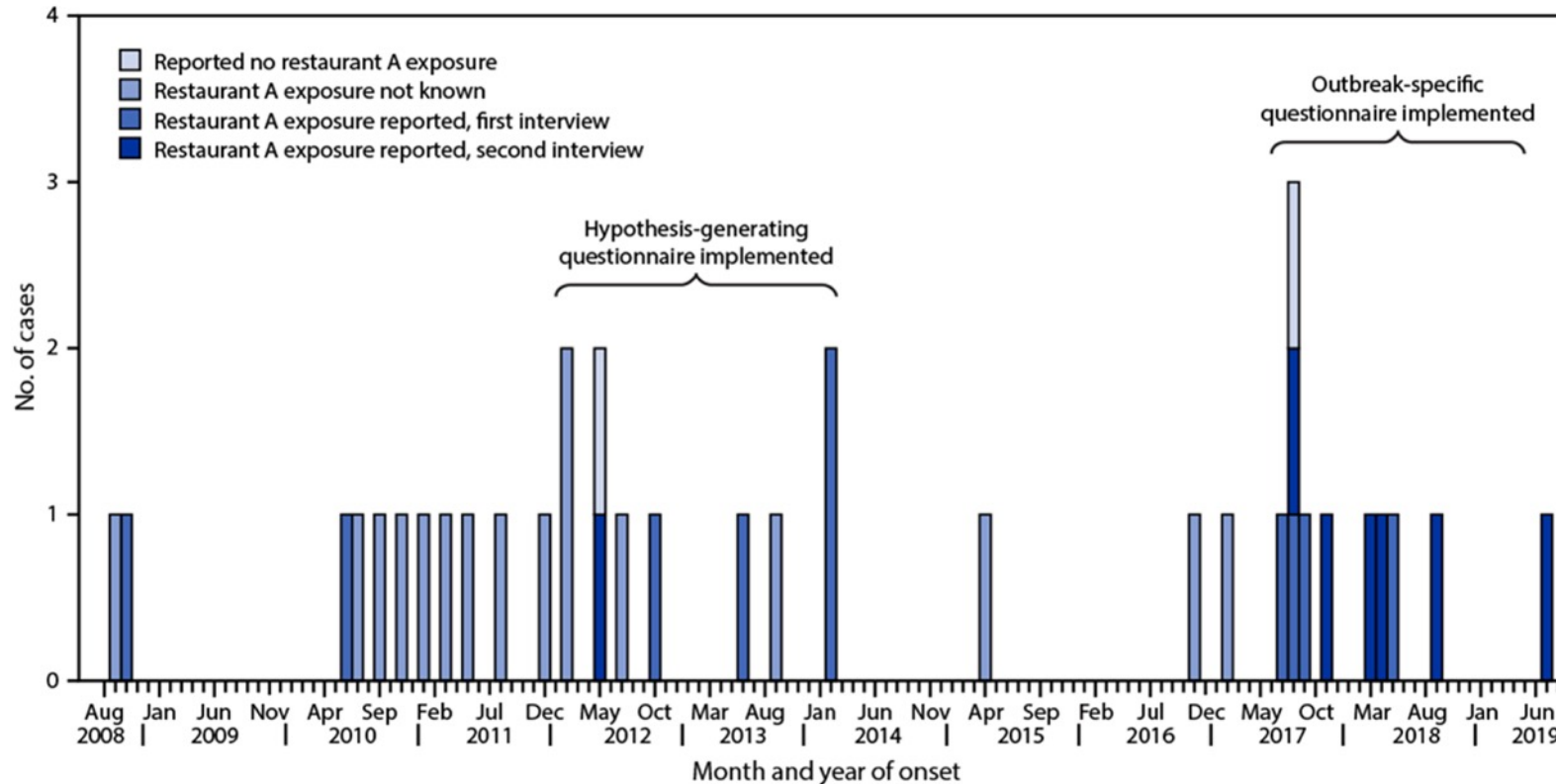


## Key Question

What is the source of infection?



# Also an Outbreak: *Salmonella* Mbandaka (Genomic Data+ Time)

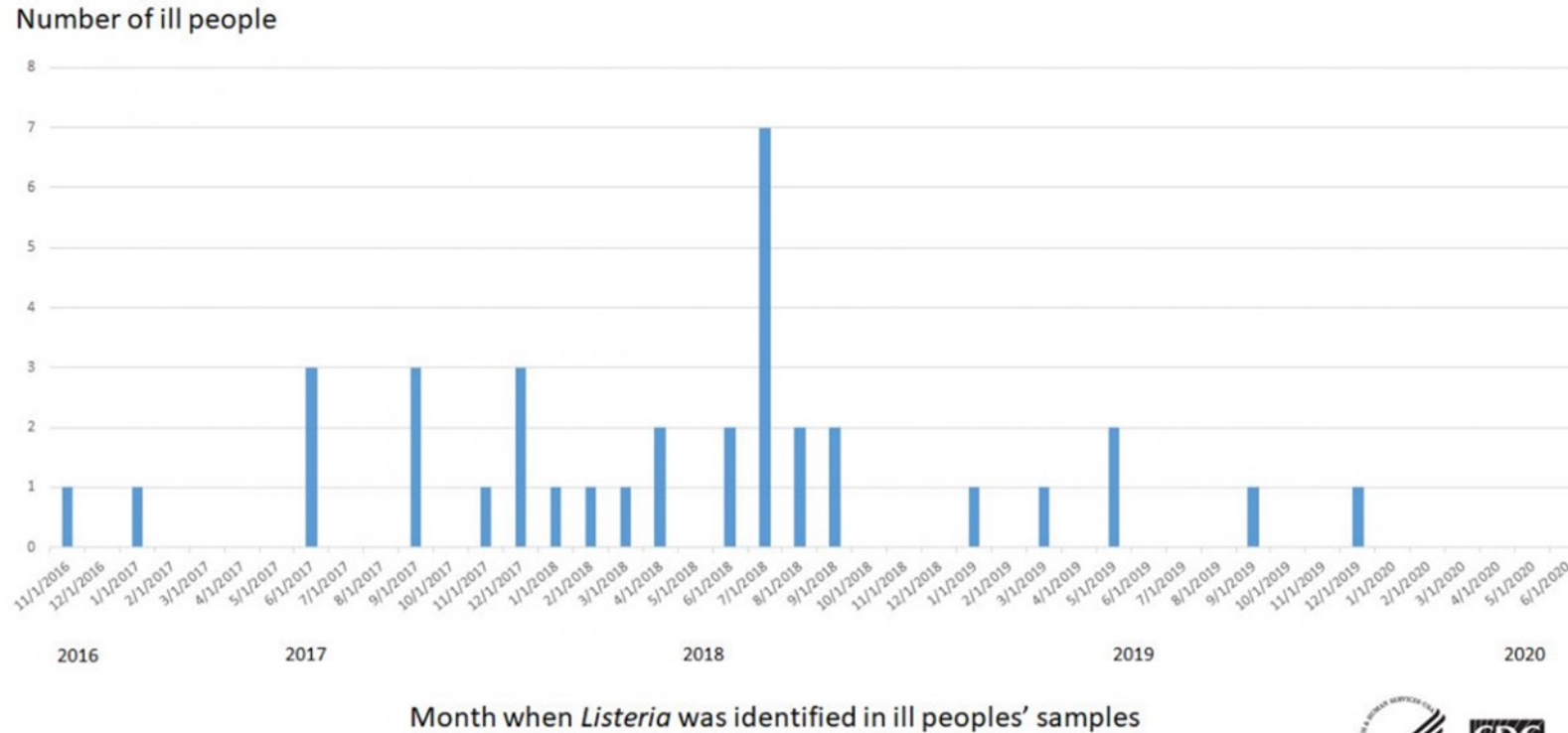


Nettleton WD, et al. (2021) MMWR 70(33): 1109-1113.





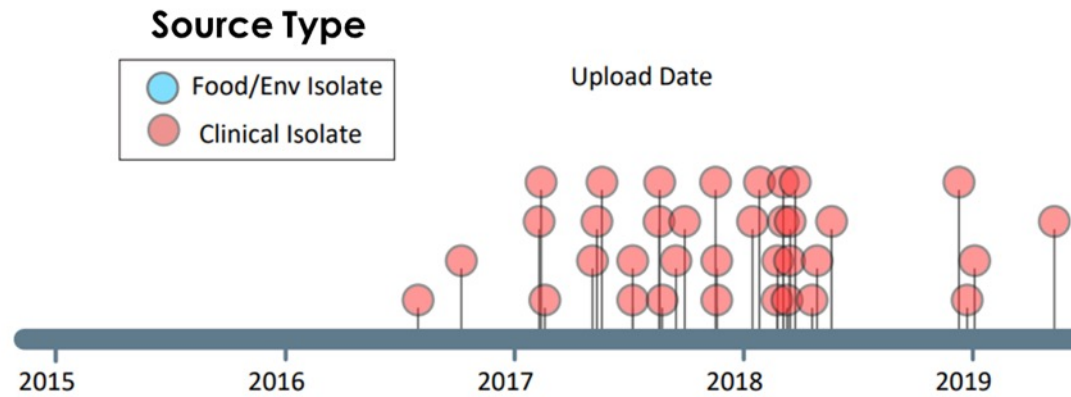
# Solving a *Listeria* Outbreak with Global Data



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/outbreaks/enoki-mushrooms-03-20/epi.html>

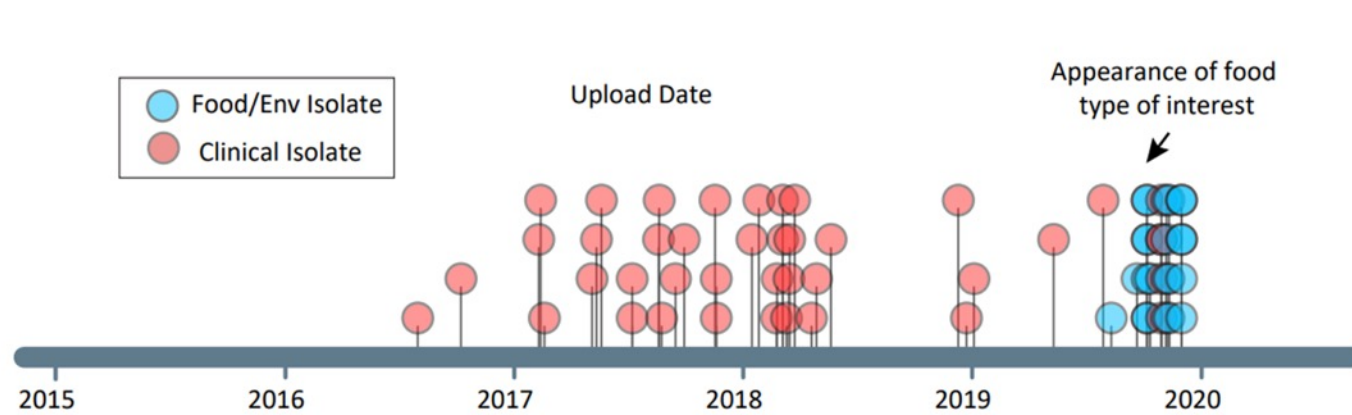


# Genomic Database: Source Type + Place



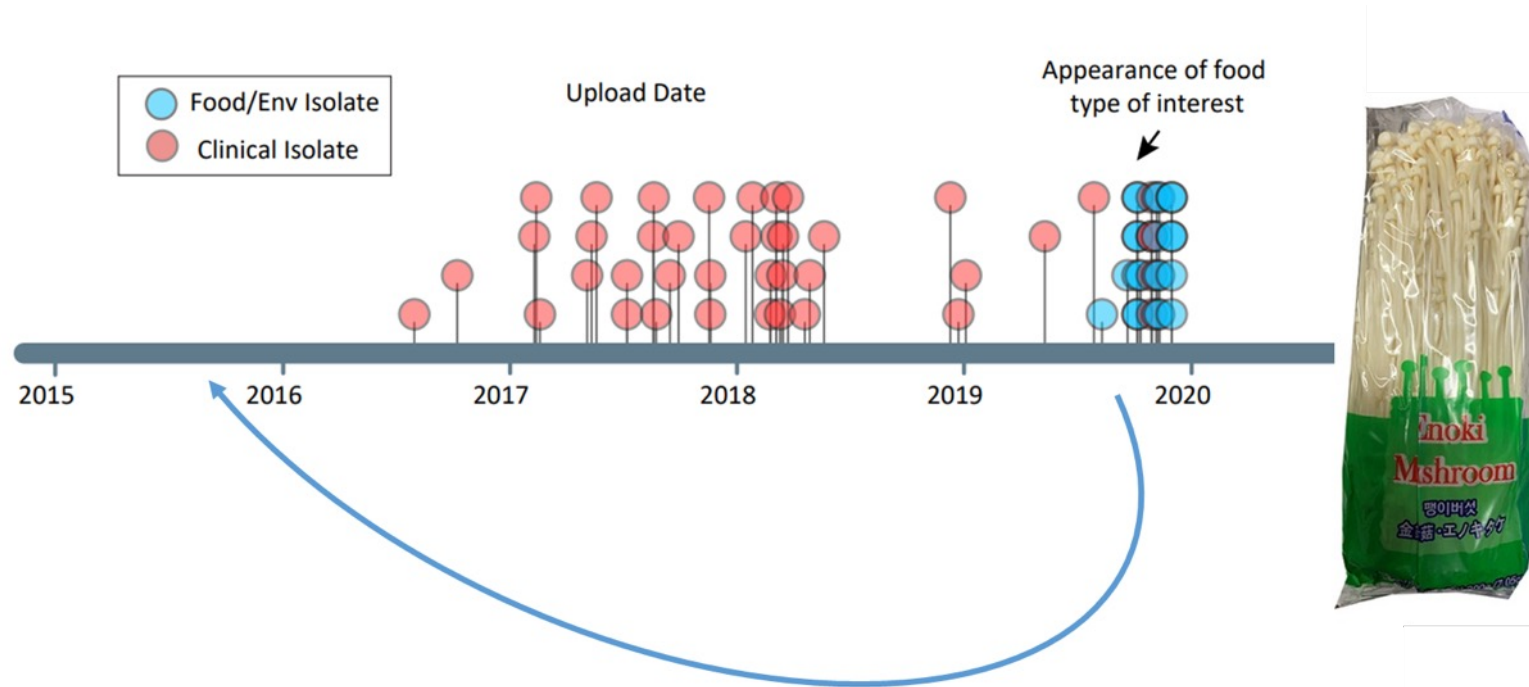
Adapted from Pettengill JB, et al. (2020) *The Lancet Microbe*; 1 (6):E233-E234.

# Genomic Database: Source Type + Place



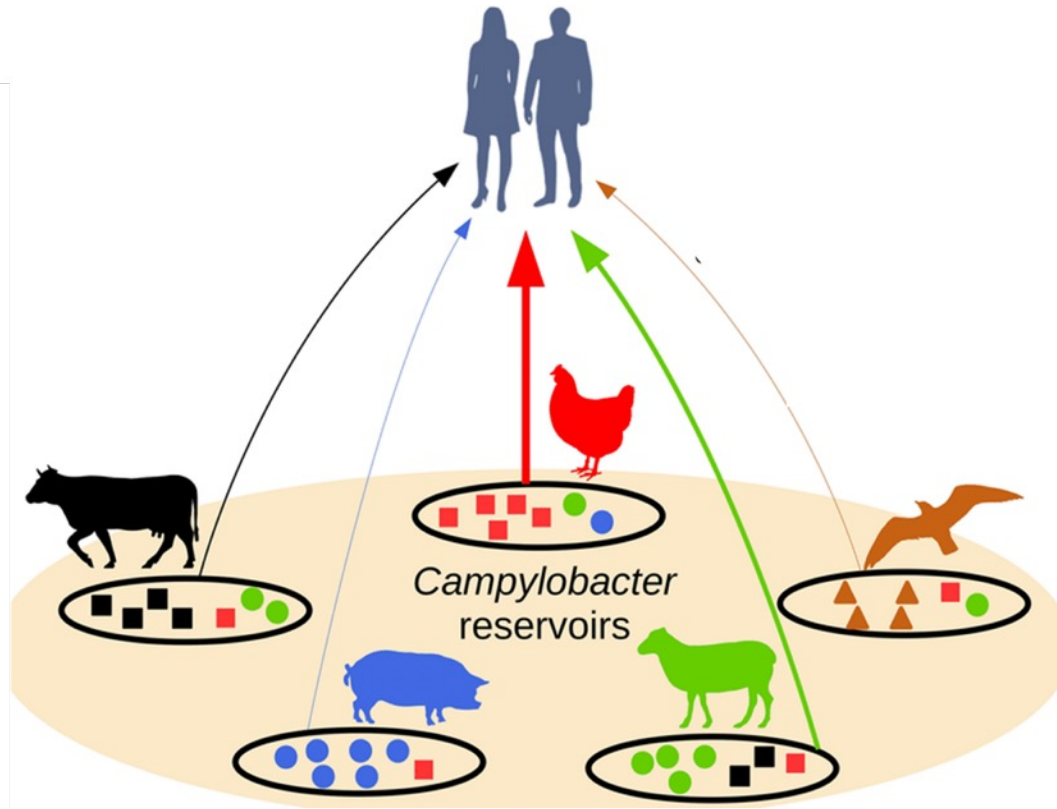
Adapted from Pettengill JB, et al. (2020) *The Lancet Microbe*; 1 (6):E233-E234.

# Genomic Database: Source Type + Place



Adapted from: Pettengill JB, et al. (2020) *The Lancet Microbe*; 1(6):E233-E234.  
Photo from: <https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/outbreak-investigation-listeria-monocytogenes-enoki-mushrooms-march-2020>

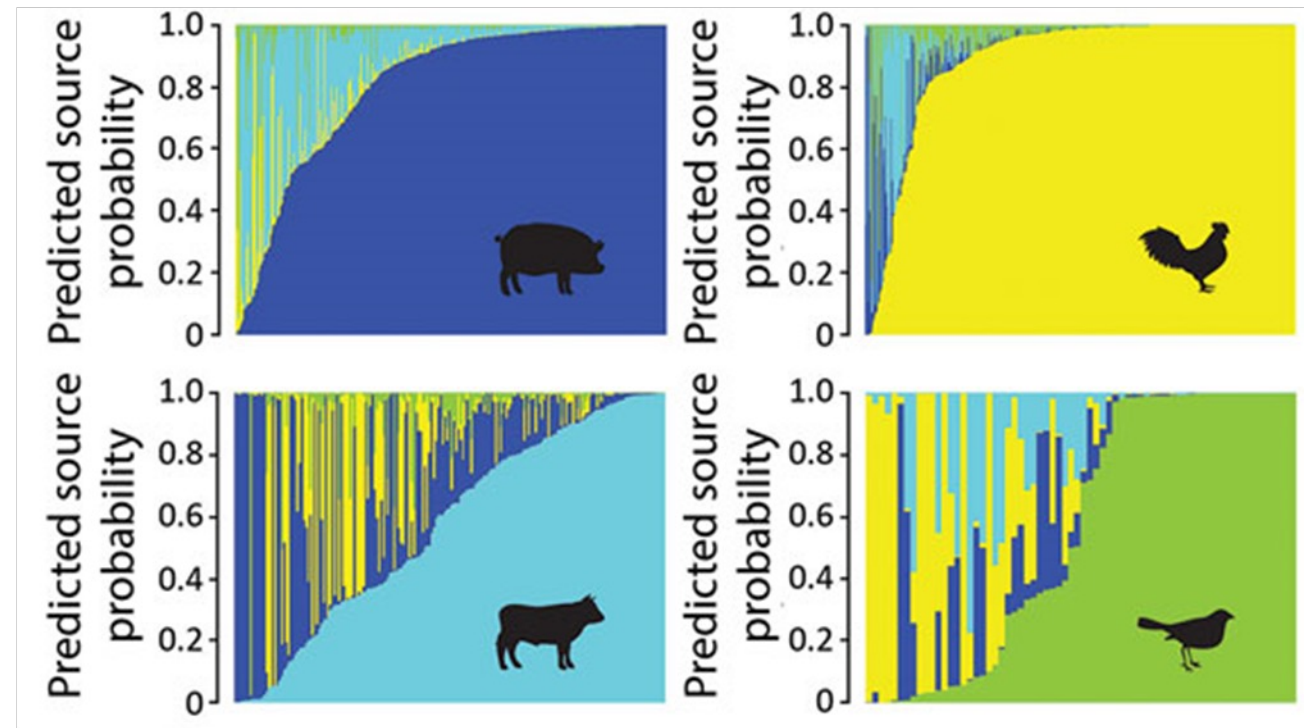
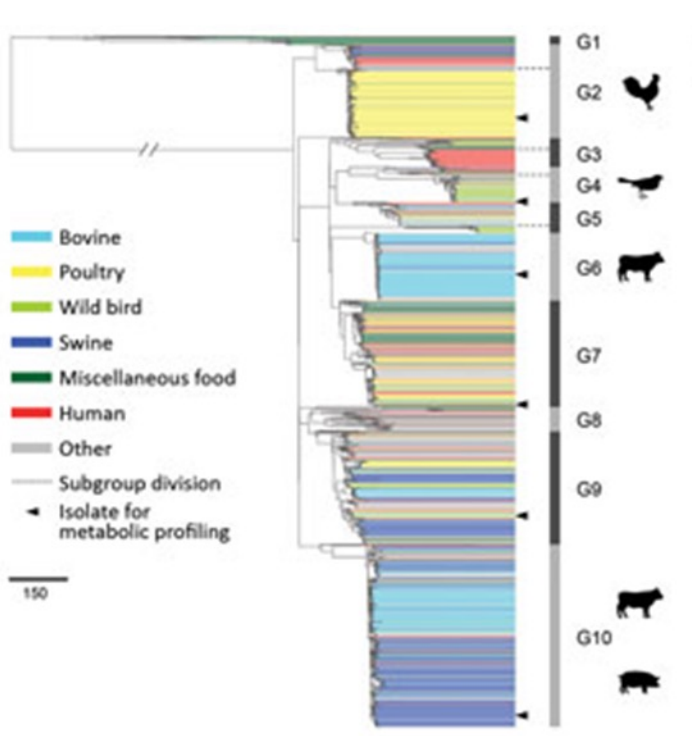
# Pathogen Genomics of Source for Source Attribution and Prediction



Adapted from Perez-Reche FJ, et al. (2020) 10: 12124.



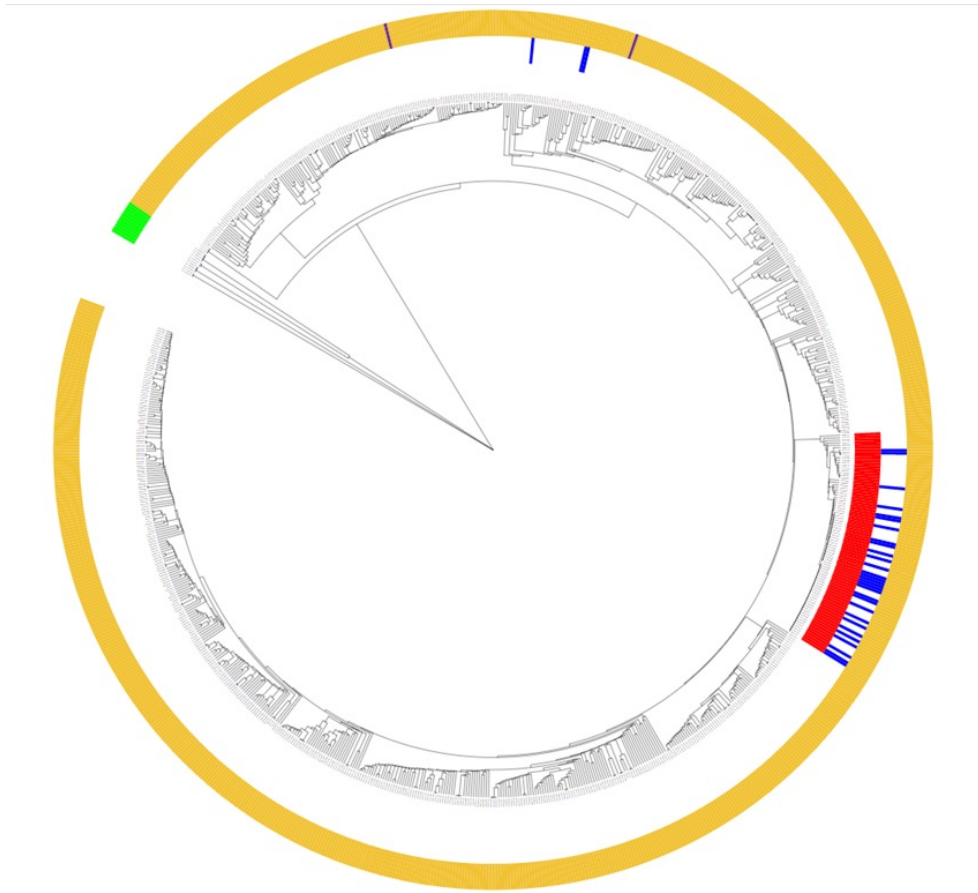
# Pathogen Genomics + Source Type: *Salmonella* Source Attribution



Adapted from Zhang S, et al. (2019) Emerging Infectious Diseases, 25(1).



# Ongoing Monitoring



- Closely-related isolates
- State: MI
- Source: Human
- Source: Environmental
- Source: Unknown

*Salmonella* Newport (Genomic Data + Place)

Courtesy of Molly Leeper, PulseNet



# The Problem

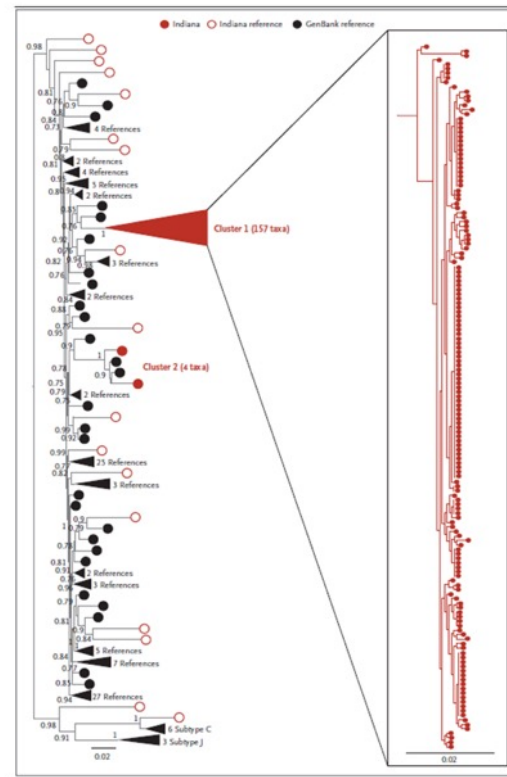
January, 2015: 11 new diagnoses of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection reported in a small community in Indiana



# Key Questions

Are the cases part of a transmission chain?  
How is transmission occurring?

# Highly Related Sequences



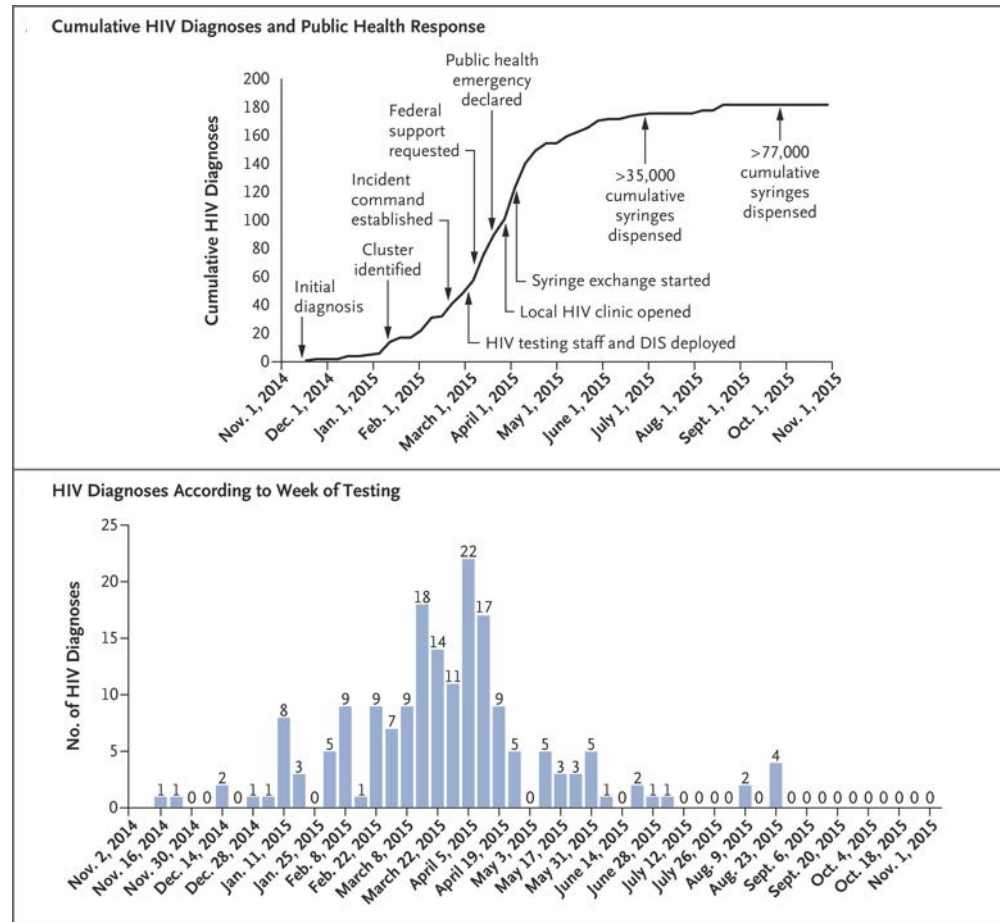
Adapted from Peters P, et al. (2016) NEJM. 375(3): 229-39.







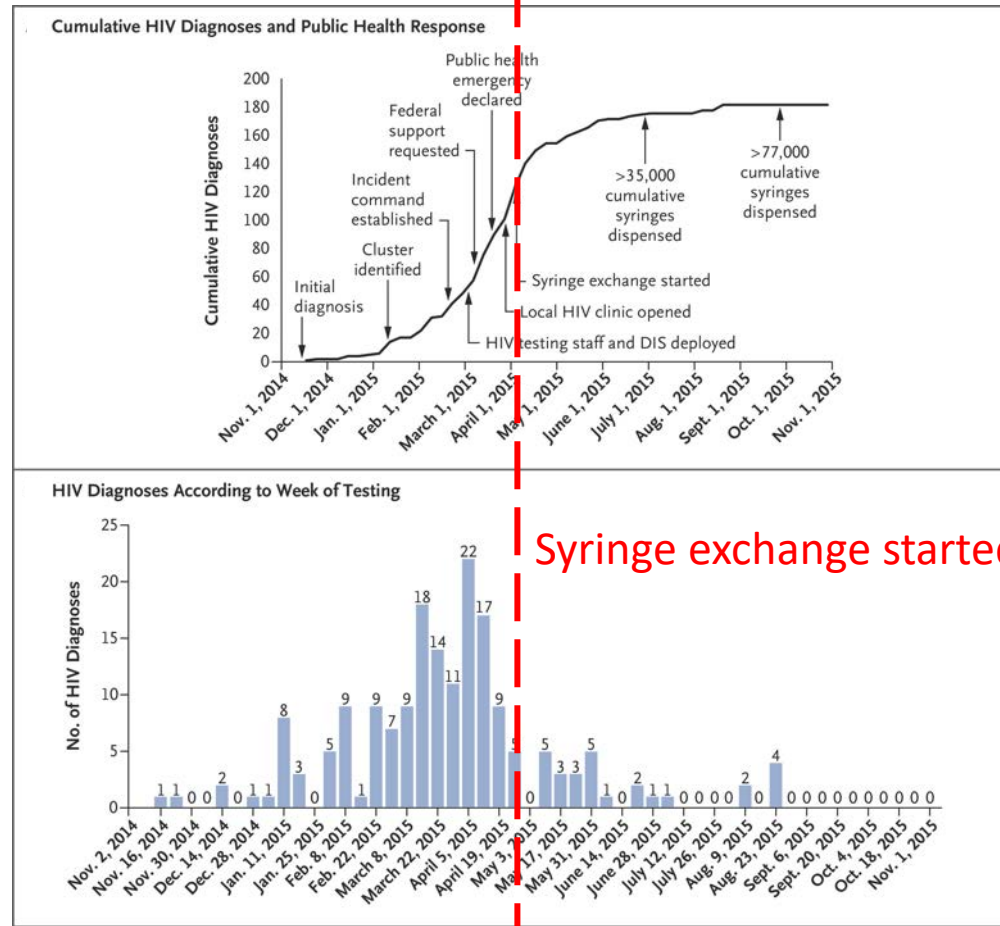
# Targeting Prevention to Mode of Transmission



Adapted from Peters P, et al. (2016) NEJM. 375(3): 229-39.



# Targeting Prevention to Mode of Transmission

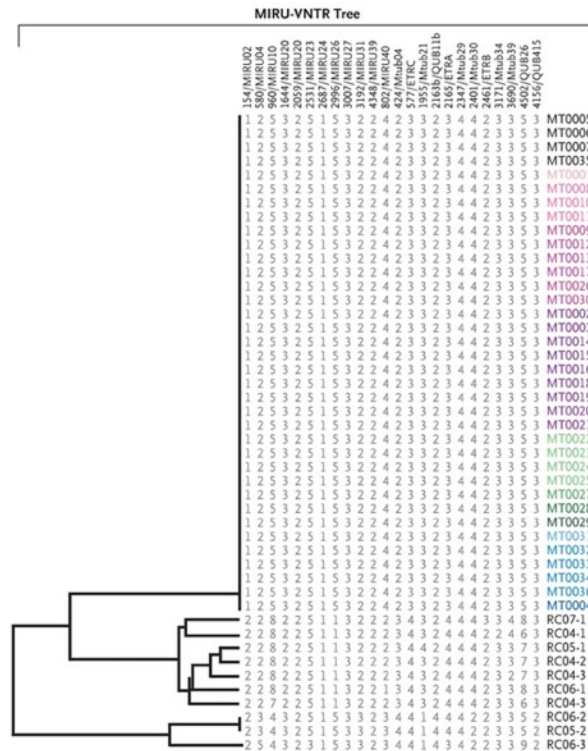


Adapted from Peters P, et al. (2016) NEJM. 375(3): 229-39.



# Defining the Problem: A Tuberculosis Outbreak?

41 cases of tuberculosis over 3 years

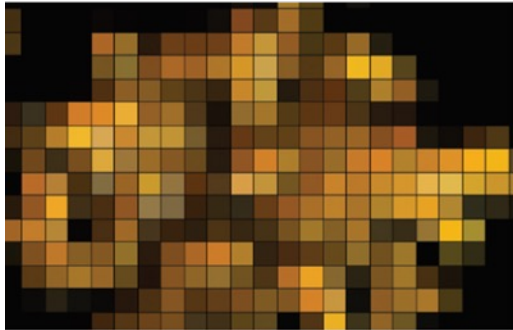


Adapted from: Gardy JL, et al. (2011) NEJM 364(8):730-9.

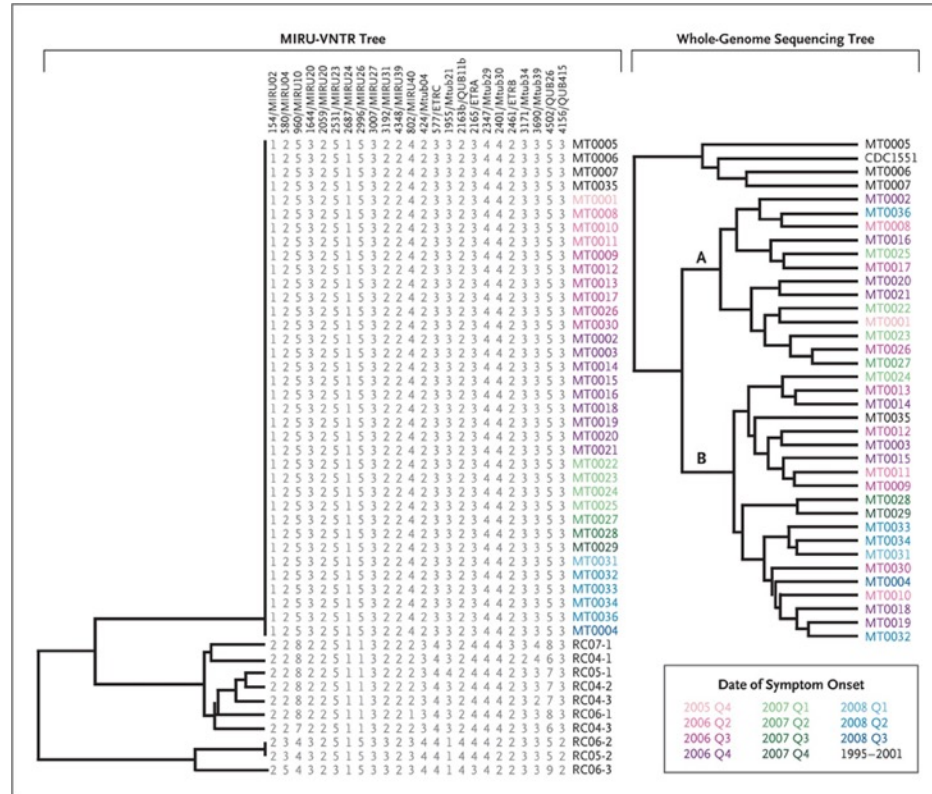




# More Data ~ Higher Resolution

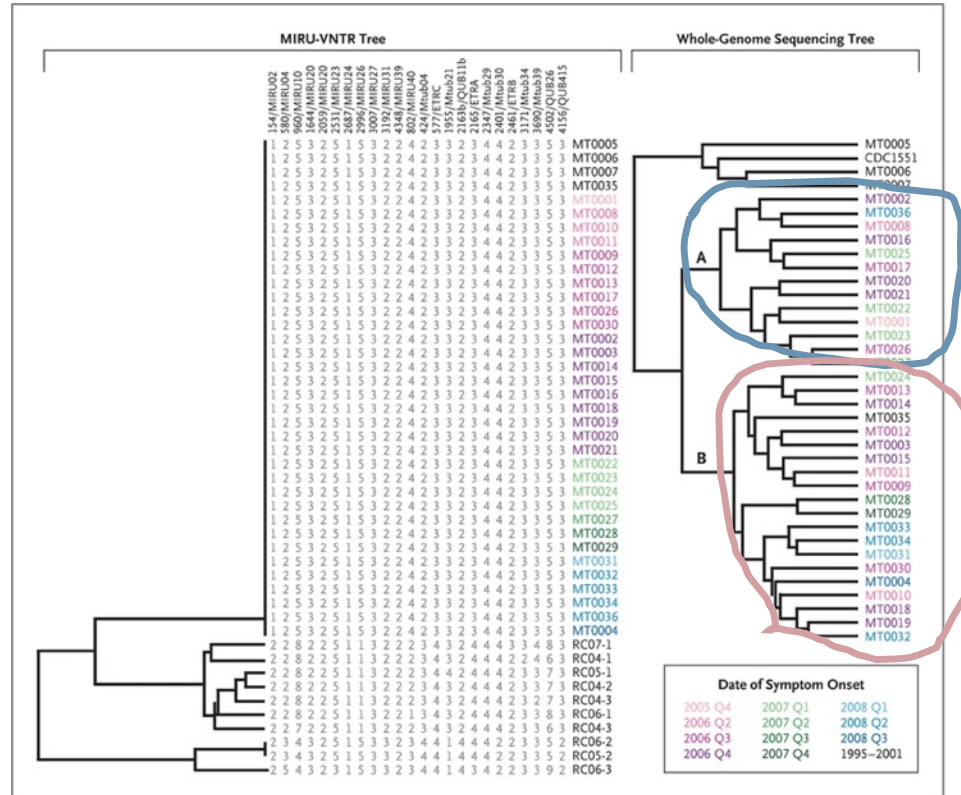


# A Higher Resolution View



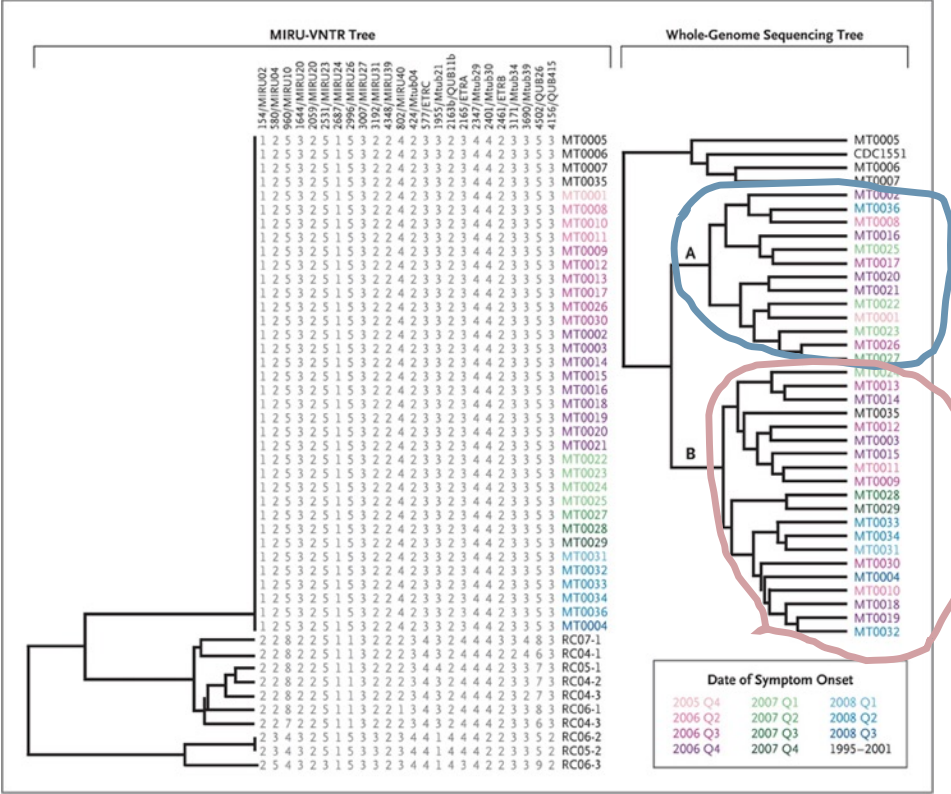
Adapted from: Gardy JL, et al. (2011) N Engl J Med 364(8):730-9.

# A Higher Resolution View: Two Outbreaks

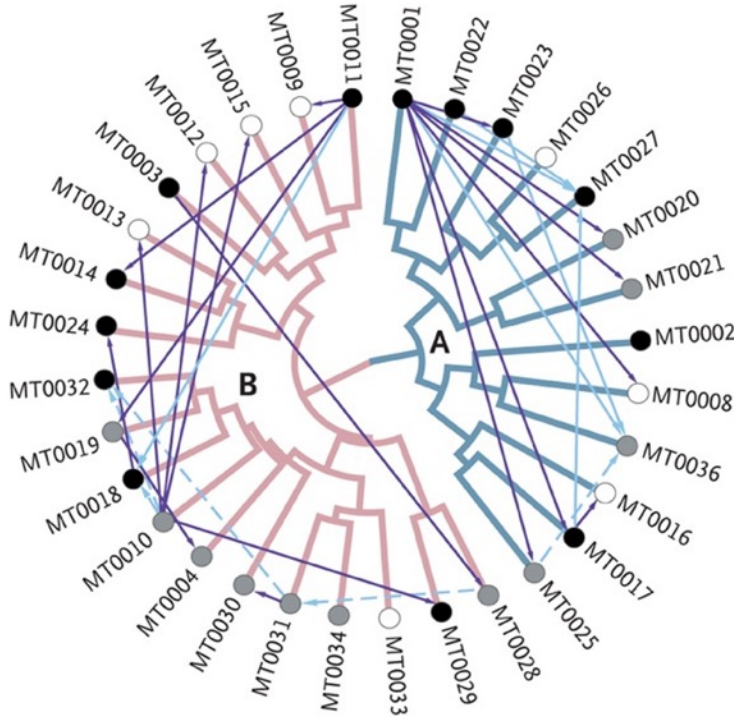


Adapted from: Gardy JL, et al. (2011) N Engl J Med 364(8):730-9.

# Two Outbreaks, Two Networks



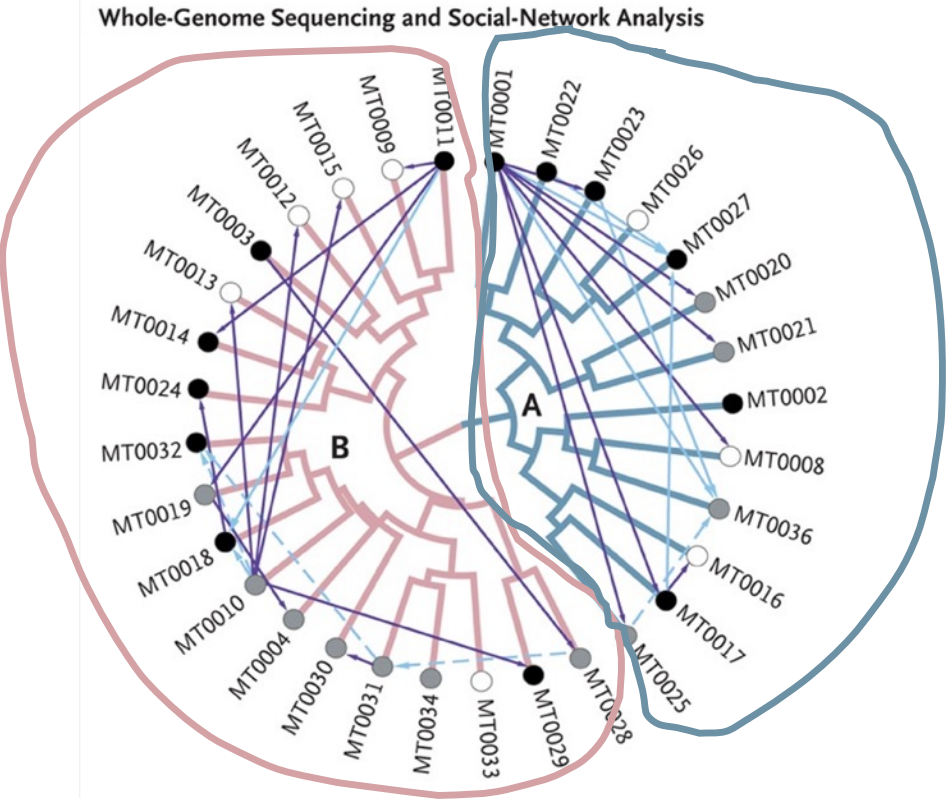
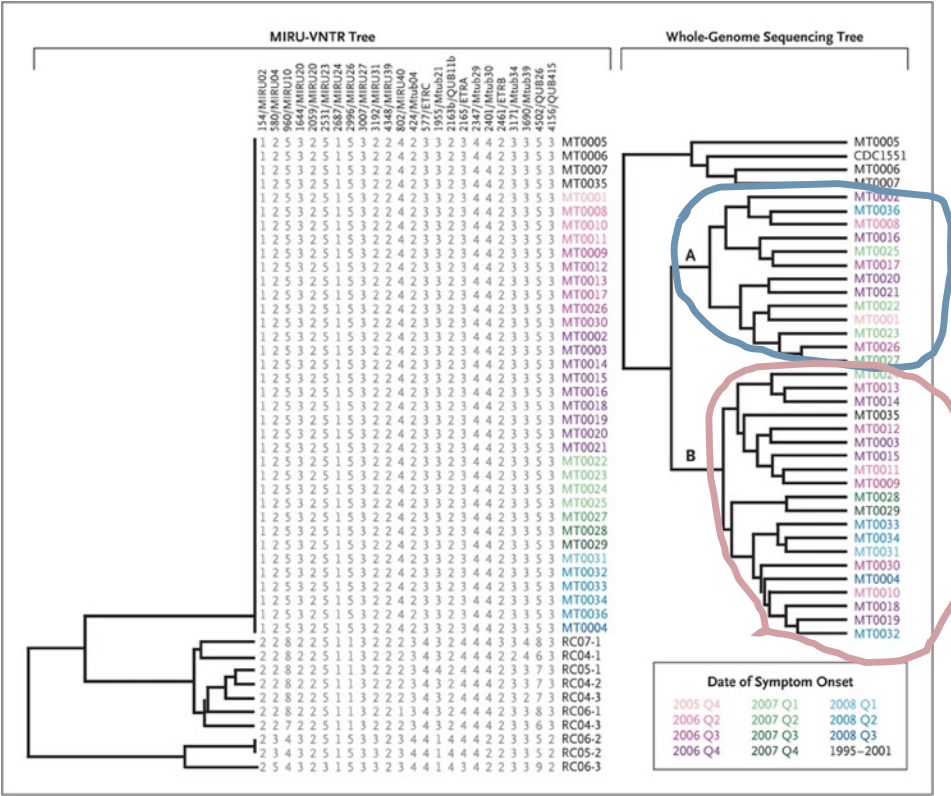
Whole-Genome Sequencing and Social-Network Analysis



Adapted from: Gardy JL, et al. (2011) N Engl J Med 364(8):730-9.



# Two Outbreaks, Two Networks



Adapted from: Gardy JL, et al. (2011) N Engl J Med 364(8):730-9.







# An Unusual Infection

## **March 2021, Kansas:**

A 53 year old woman with multiple medical conditions including chronic lung disease developed shortness of breath, cough, malaise and weakness.

The patient was hospitalized, treated with broad spectrum antibiotics but developed encephalopathy, hypotension, and respiratory distress.

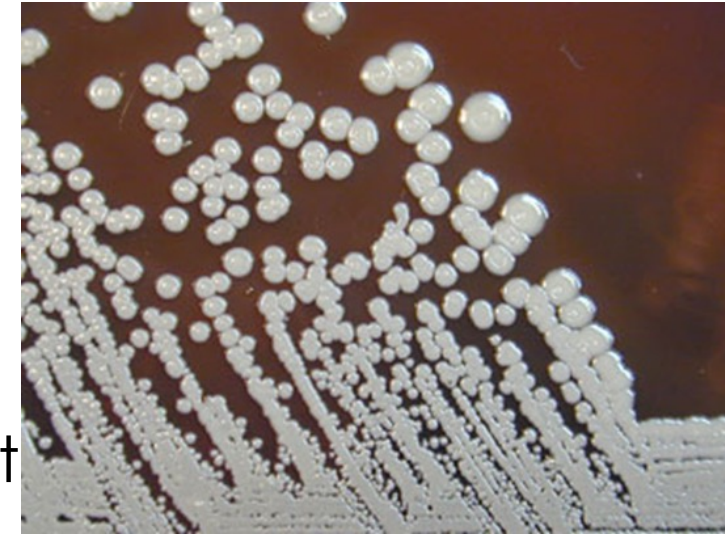
The patient was transferred to the ICU but despite aggressive treatment died on day 9 of hospitalization.

Blood cultures grew *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.

Adapted from: Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.



# *Burkholderia pseudomallei*



- Cause of melioidosis (fatality rate 10-50%)
- Found in contaminated soil and water
- Infection through inhalation, ingestion, skin contact
- Can infect any organ of the body
- Disease predominately in tropical climates, especially in Southeast Asia and northern Australia
- Most cases in the U.S. linked to recent travel to endemic areas

<https://www.cdc.gov/melioidosis/index.html>

# An Unexpected History

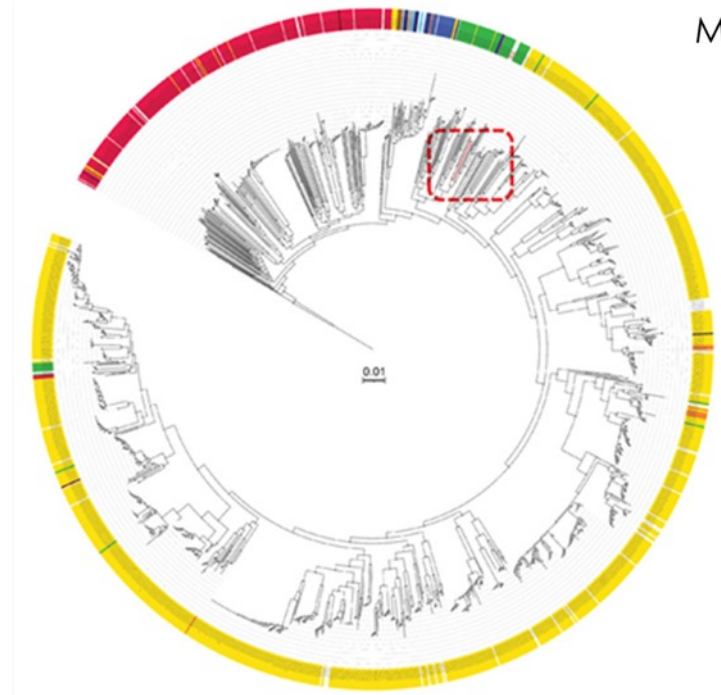


Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.

# A Bacterial Strain Similar to Strains Found in South Asia

## Geographic Region

- Unknown
- Africa
- Australia
- Central America
- East Asia
- Europe
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- South America
- South Asia
- United States



Most similar to strains from South Asia

Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.



# Another Report



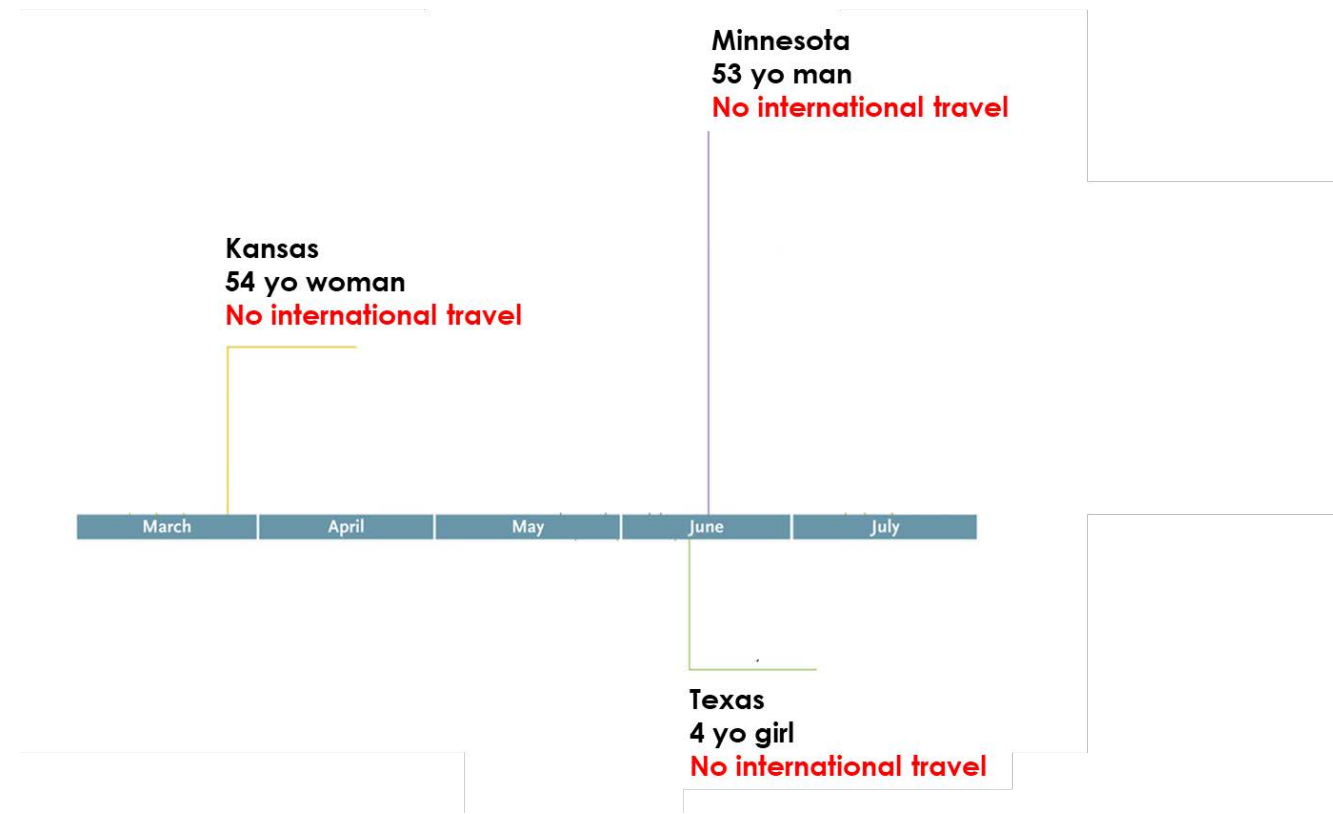
Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.







# Another Report



Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.





# Key Question

Are these cases related?



# Whole Genome Sequencing Results

- Genomic sequences nearly identical → common source
- Strain had BimBm gene variant associated with neurological involvement in mouse model



## Key Question

What is the source of infection?

# Multistate Investigation of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Meliodosis) in Three Patients: Kansas, Texas, and Minnesota—2021

[Print](#)



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

June 30, 2021, 2:30 PM ET

CDCHAN-00444







## Sample Testing

- >100 samples from products, soil, water in and around patient homes
- No samples positive for *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

# New Case Identified: Multistate Investigation of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Meliodosis) in Four Patients: Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas—2021

[Print](#)



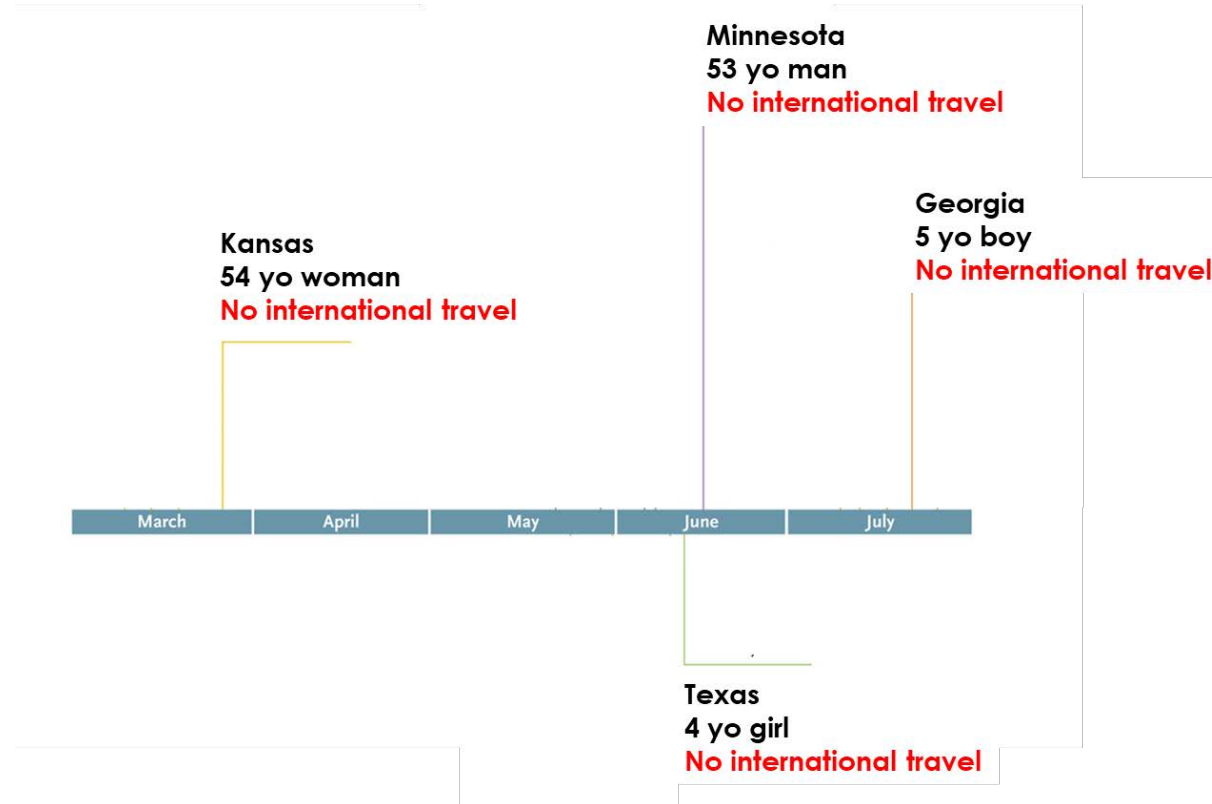
Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

August 9, 2021, 11:40 AM ET

CDCHAN-00448



# Another Report



Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.

# Source Implicated in Fatal Case in Georgia: Multistate Outbreak of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Melioidosis) in Four Patients: Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas–2021

[Print](#)



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

October 22, 2021, 6:15 PM ET

CDCHAN-00455





# Source Implicated in Fatal Case in Georgia: Multistate Outbreak of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Melioidosis) in Four Patients: Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas–2021

[Print](#)



“Testing...has identified the bacterial DNA of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* in an aromatherapy room spray.”

“Whole genome sequencing results from the positive sample are pending.”

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

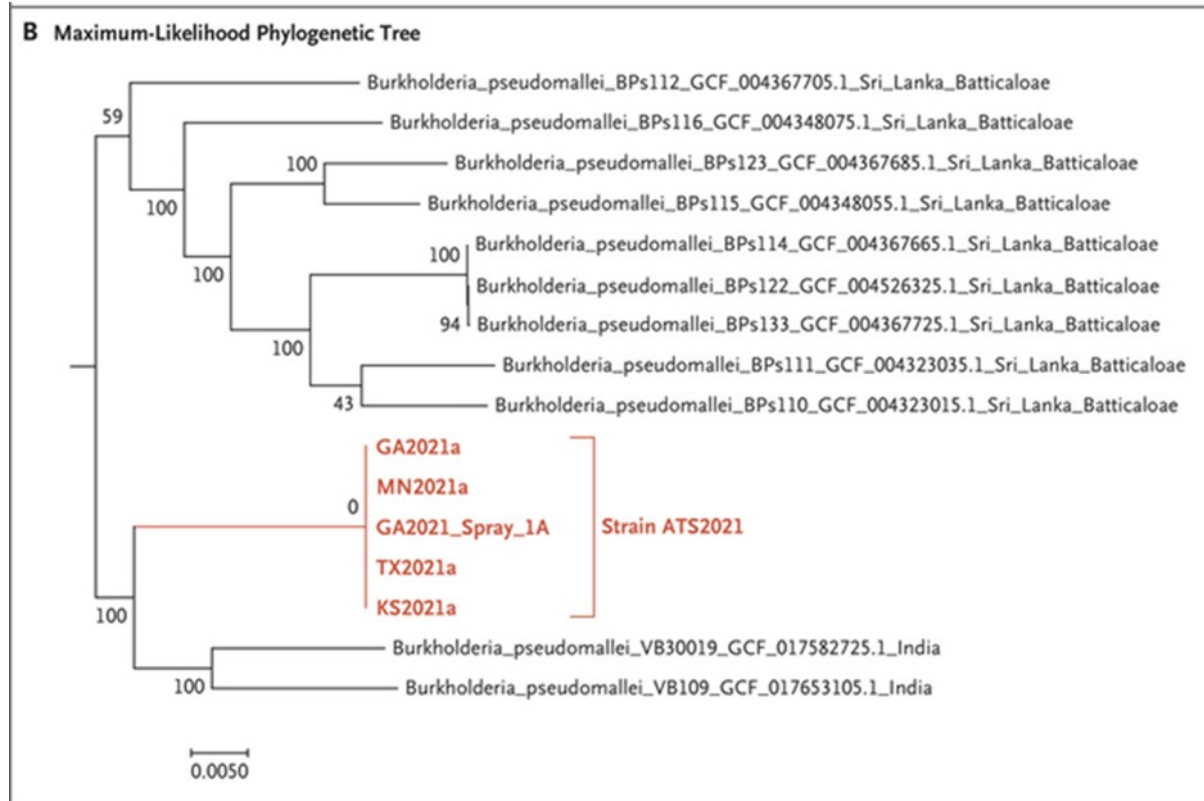
October 22, 2021, 6:15 PM ET

CDCHAN-00455



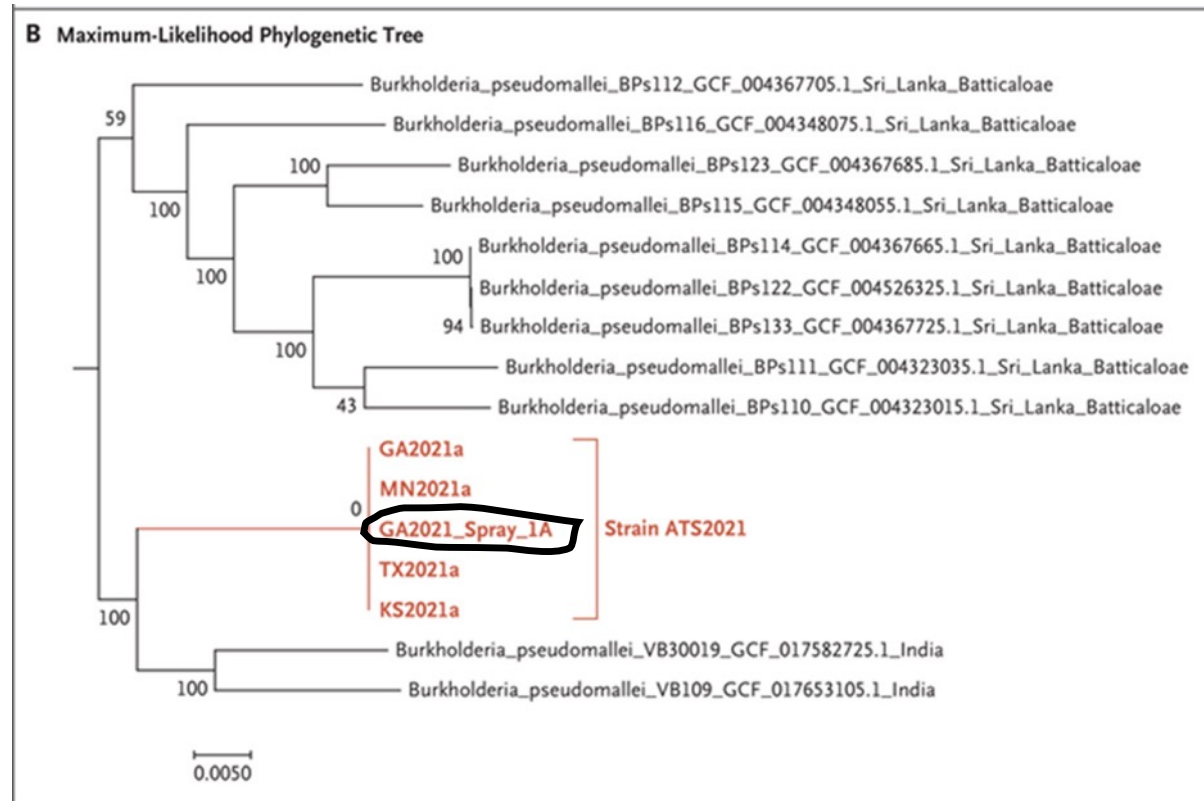


# Identical Sequences: Product and Clinical Samples



Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.

# Nearly Identical Sequences: Product and Clinical Samples



Adapted from Gee JE, et al. N Engl J Med 2022;386:861-868.

# Source Identified and Case Definition Established: Multistate Investigation of Non-travel Associated *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Infections (Meliodosis) in Four Patients: Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, and Texas – 2021

“Whole genome sequencing...confirmed that the strain of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* in bottles of aromatherapy room spray matches the bacterial strain that sickened all four patients.”

[Print](#)





# Connecting the Dots

- Strain from Georgia patient matched strain in bottle of aromatherapy spray
- All strains from patients in four states matched each other
- All patients had exposure to the same aromatherapy product
- Same strain found in unopened bottle of spray in a store in another state
- Strain was similar to strains from South Asia
- Aromatherapy spray imported from India

“...the proverbial needle in a haystack.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1026-melioidosis-outbreak.html>



# Targeted Intervention

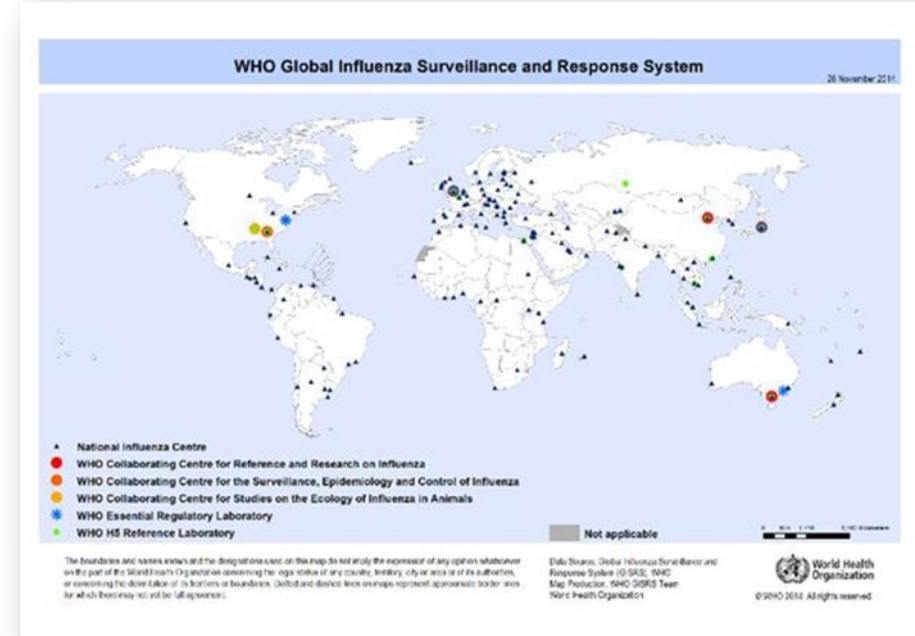
The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission website. The logo on the left includes the text "United States CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION". The navigation menu on the right contains icons and labels for "Recalls", "Business Education", "News Releases", "Regulatory Robot", "Calendar Events", and "Multimedia". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with dropdown menus for "Safety Education", "Business and Manufacturing", "Laws, Regulations, and Proceedings", "Research and Reports", and "About Us", along with a search bar containing the text "How may I help you?". The main content area features a large headline: "Walmart Recalls Better Homes and Gardens Essential Oil Infused Aromatherapy Room Spray with Gemstones Due to Rare and Dangerous Bacteria; Bacteria Identified in this Outbreak Linked to Two Deaths". Below the headline is a dashed orange line and a "Share:" section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Print, and a plus sign for additional sharing options.

Recall of 3,900 bottles of aromatherapy spray



# Impact of Next Generation Sequencing on Influenza Vaccine Strain Selection

- CDC is an important contributor to influenza surveillance and prevention
  - Serves as US National Influenza Center and WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza
  - Analyses 8,000 – 12,000 influenza samples/year in support of surveillance and selection of vaccine strains
    - Vaccine is produced in a “just in time” fashion
    - 150 Million vaccine doses/year in the US
- Evolution of influenza is very rapid
  - Critical to find variants quickly
  - Antigenic drift
  - Reassortment
- AMD improves characterization
  - High throughput NGS sequencing for influenza surveillance
  - Antigenic inference



# On the Front Lines: Transforming Influenza Surveillance





# In the Field





# COVID-19

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

BRIEF REPORT

## A Novel Coronavirus from Patients with Pneumonia in China, 2019

Late December, 2019 – reports of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause

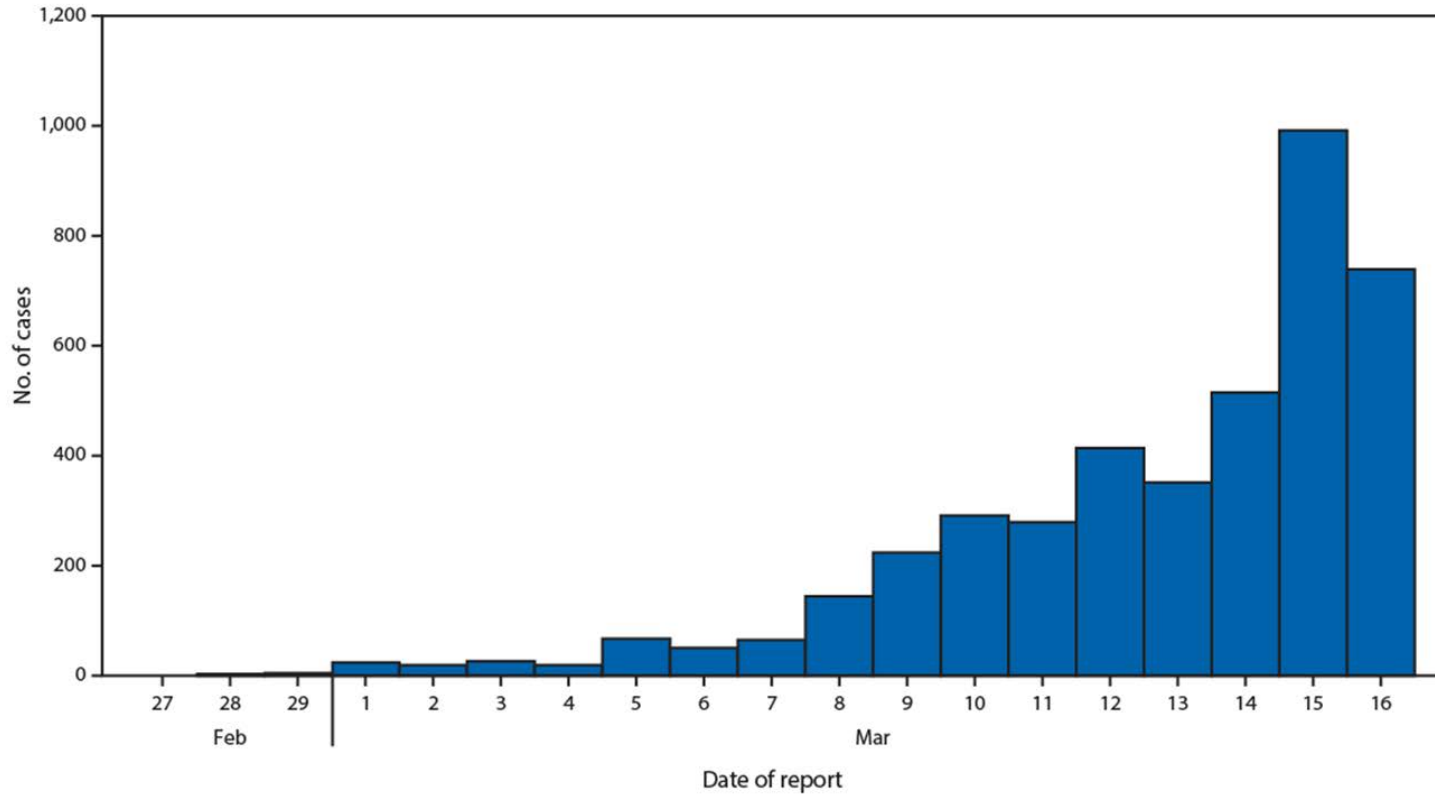
January 10, 2020 – novel coronavirus identified by sequencing





# Host View: Counting

Number of new COVID-19 cases reported daily — United States, February 12–March 16, 2020



Adapted from: MMWR (2020) 69:343-346.







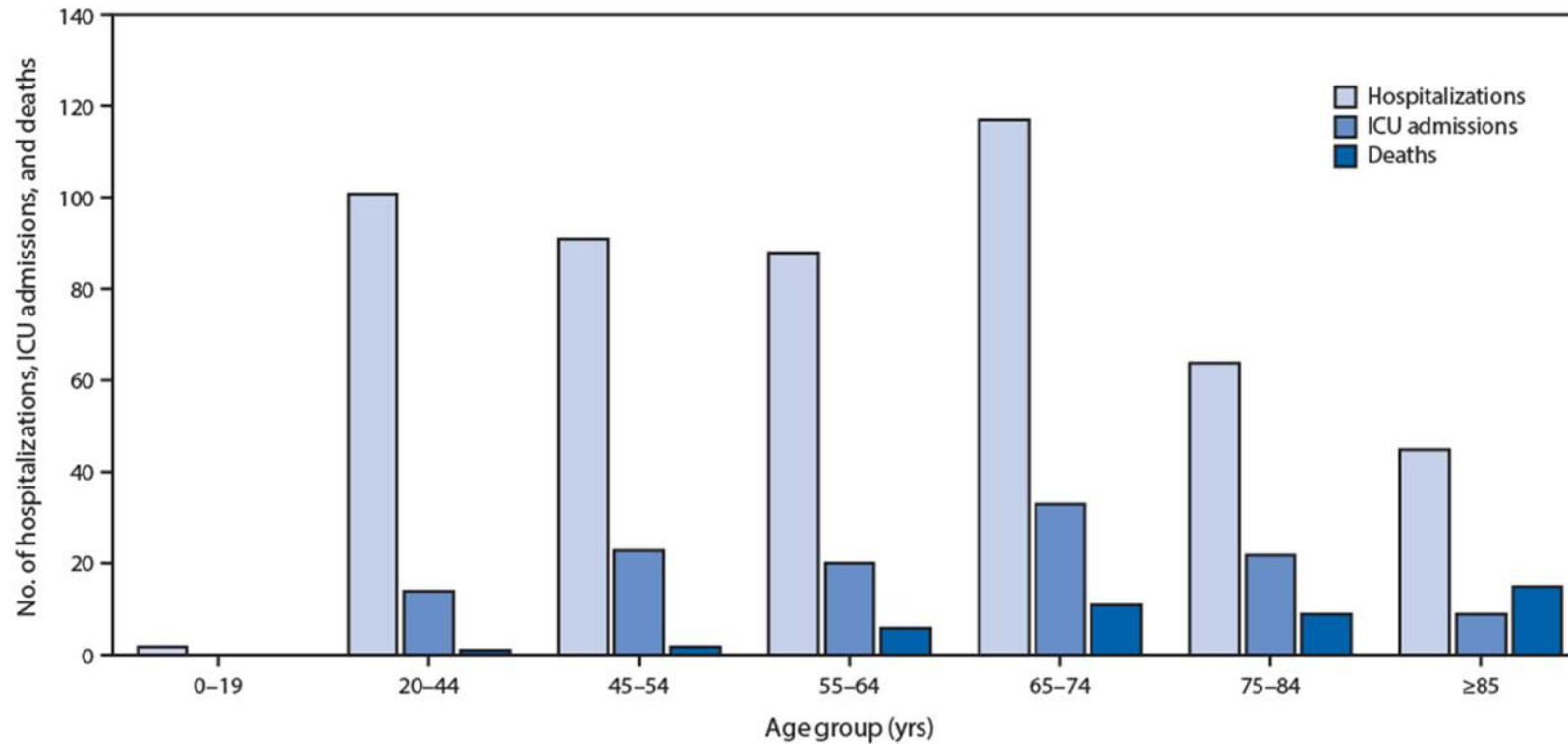
# COVID-19: A New Infectious Disease

## Host

- Who is affected?
- What are the characteristics of disease?
- What are risk factors for severe disease?

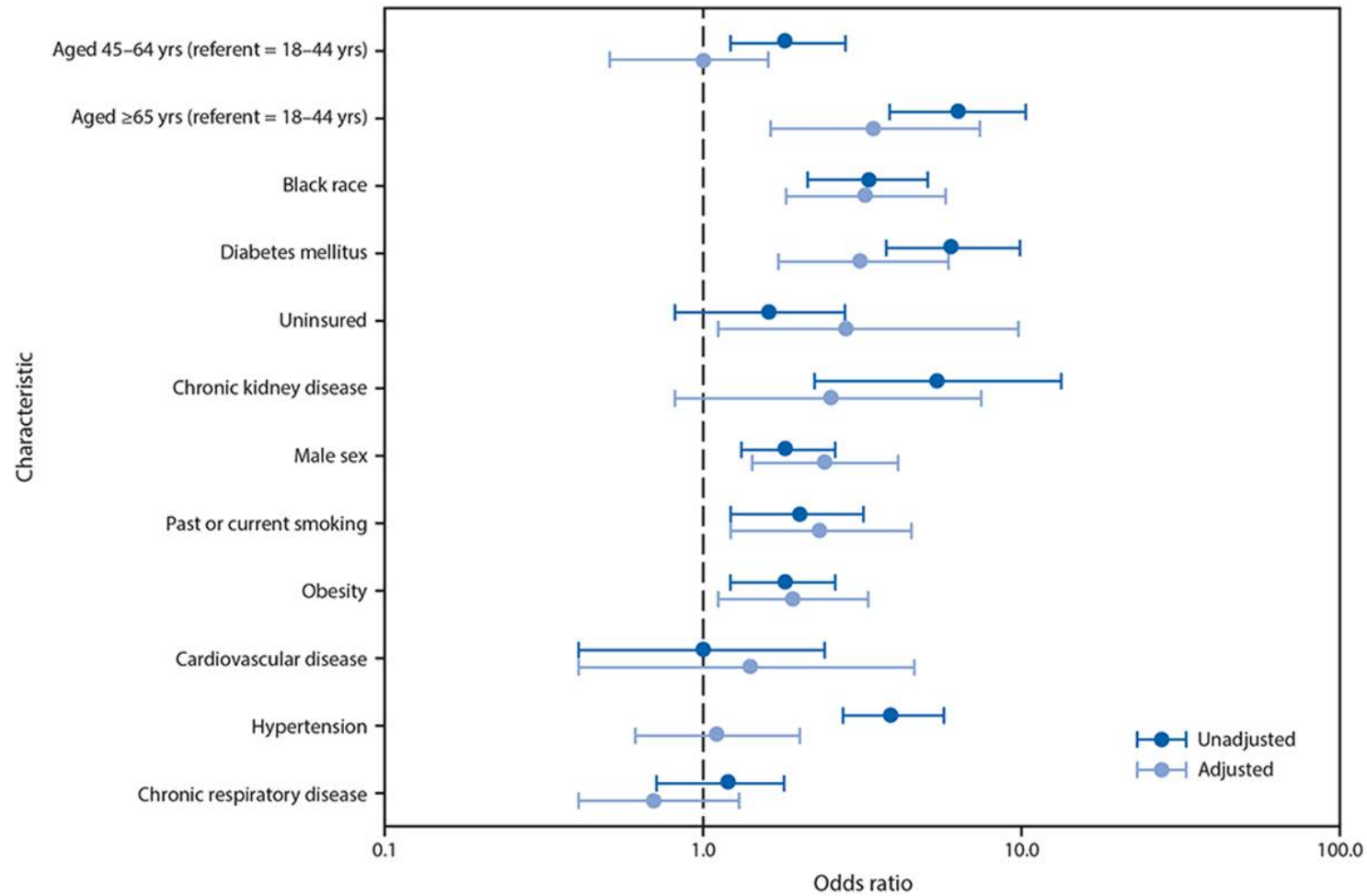
# COVID-19 Host View: Sorting

COVID-19 hospitalizations, intensive care unit admissions, and deaths, by age group — United States, February 12– March 16, 2020



Images from Trevor Bedford Group: <https://docs.nextstrain.org>

# Host View: Risk Factors for Severe Disease



Jackson BR, et al. (2021) Clin Infect Dis. 73(11) :e4141-e4151.



# COVID-19: A New Infectious Disease

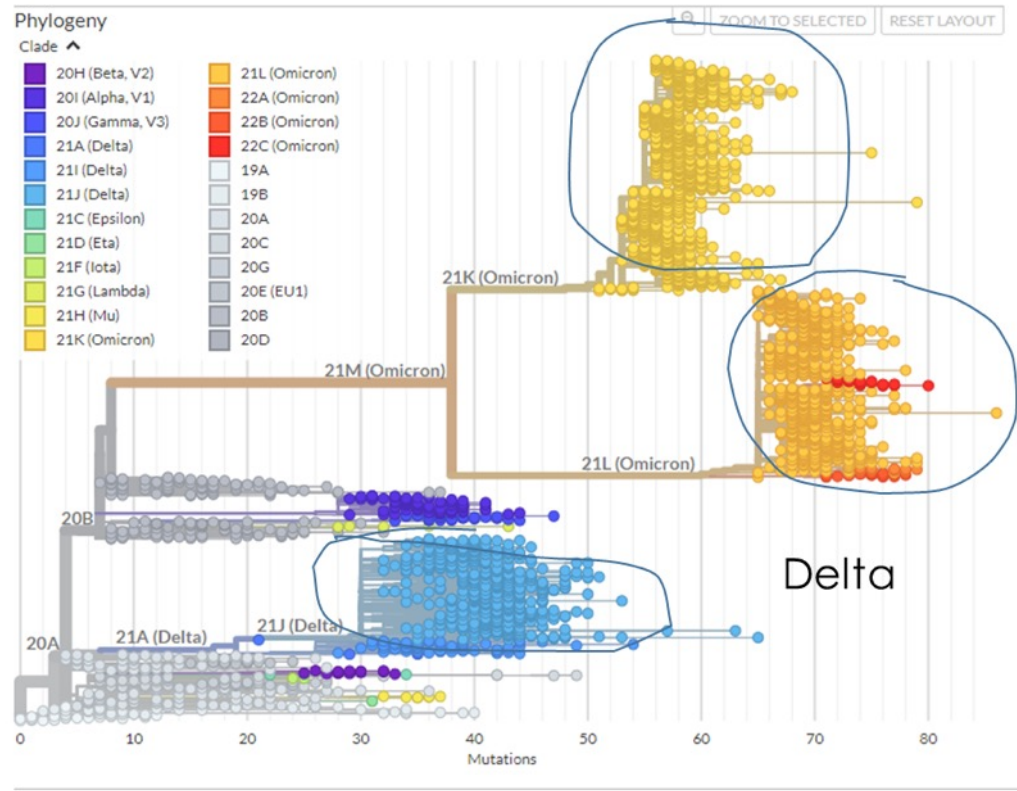
## Host

- Who is affected
- What are the characteristics of disease?
- What are risk factors for severe disease?

## Pathogen

- Where is transmission happening?
- How is the virus changing?
- What features of the virus affect severity of disease?
- Do changes in the virus impact vaccine efficacy? Treatment response? Severity of disease? Transmissibility?

# Identifying Variants



Source: nextstrain.org



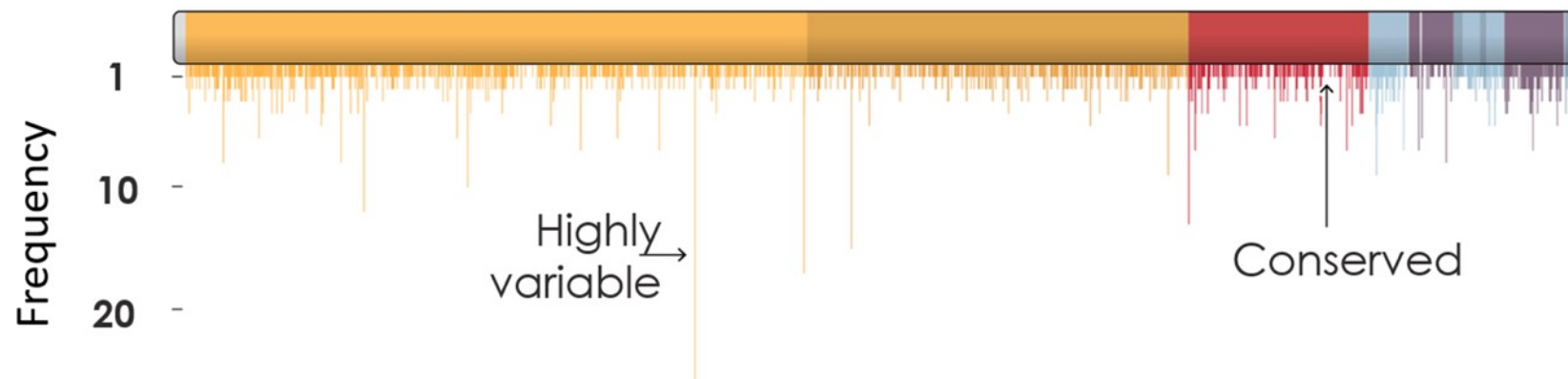


# SARS-CoV-2

SNP = Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

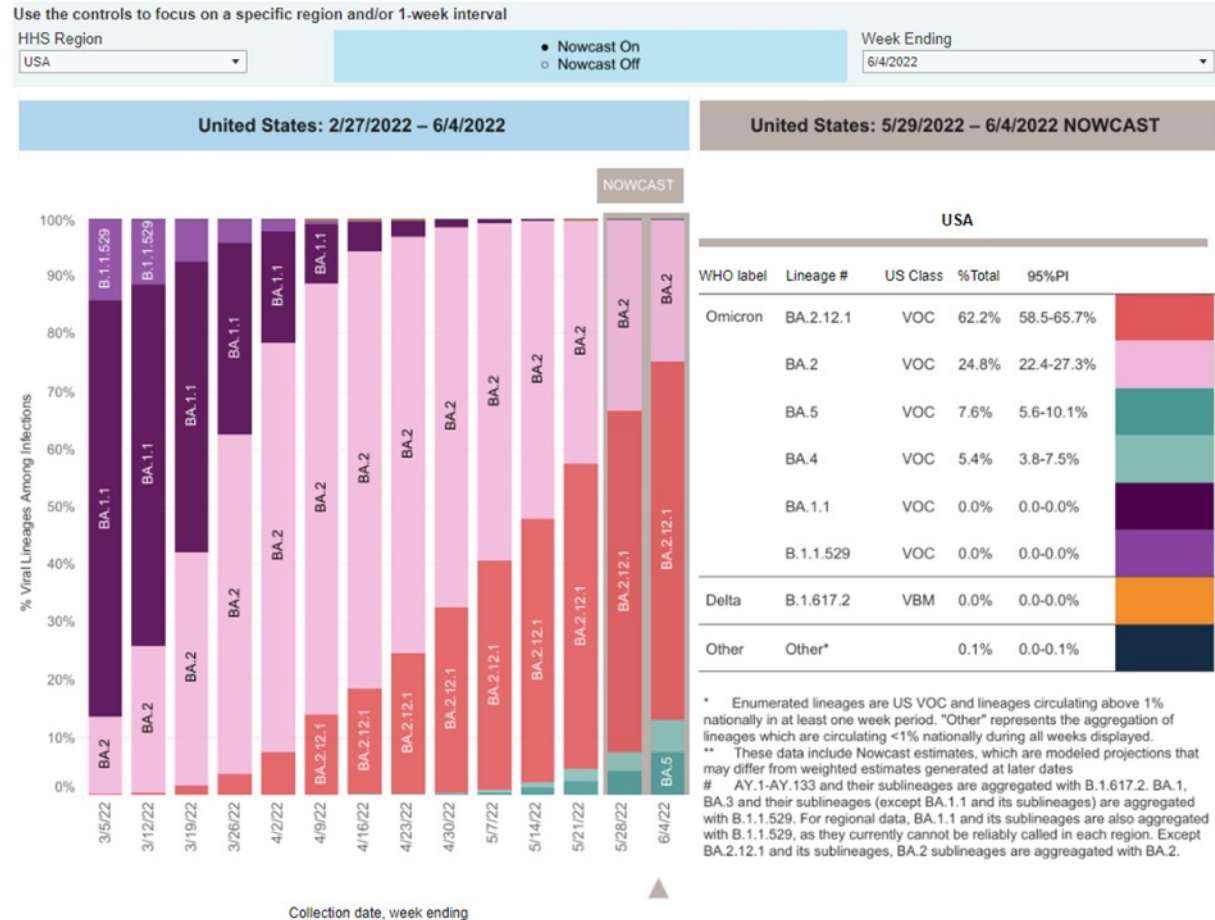
- ATGTT**C**CTC sequence
- ATGTT**G**CTC reference

SNPs occur across the genome with varied frequency:



Genome image adapted from The New York Times [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/30/science/coronavirus-mutations.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/04/30/science/coronavirus-mutations.html)

# SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>

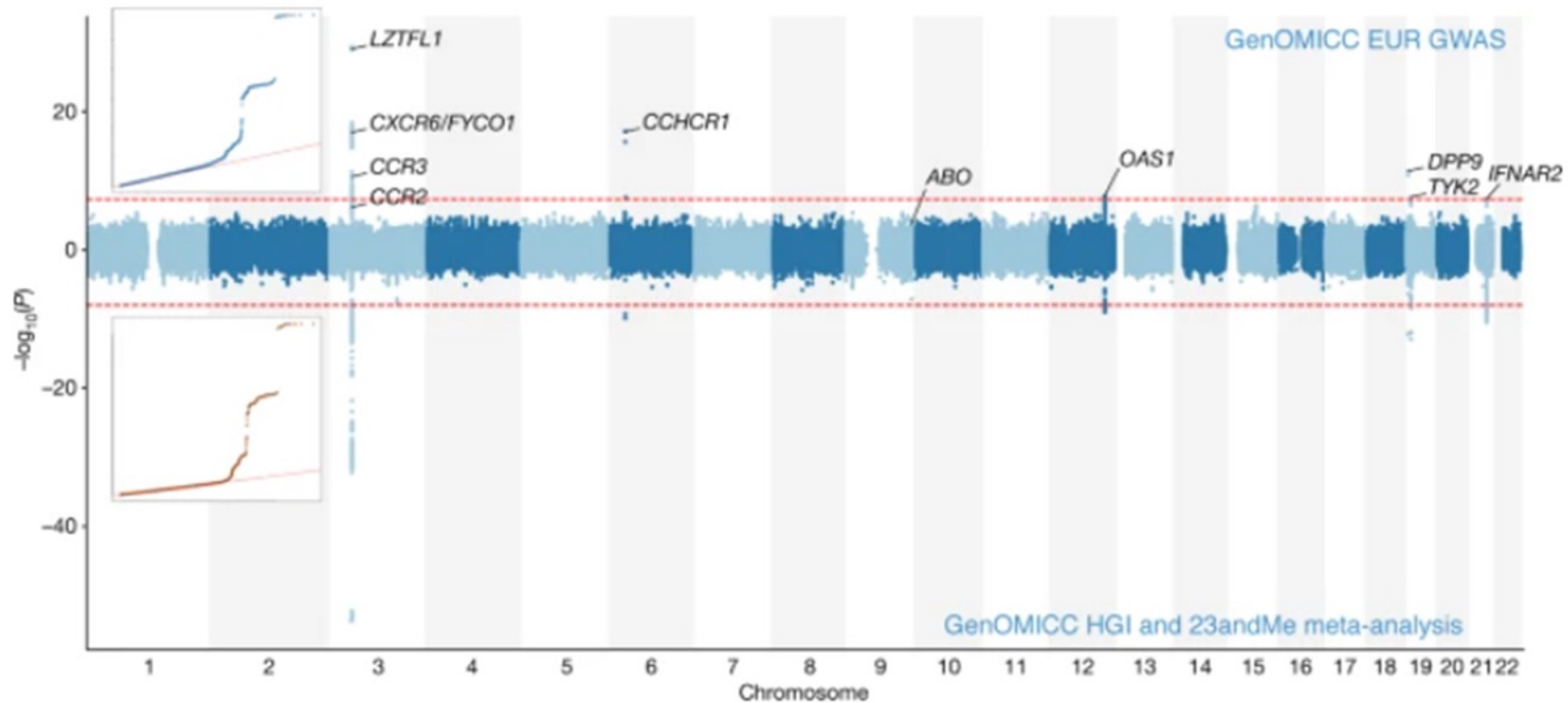




# COVID-19 Clinical Spectrum of Disease



# COVID-19 Critical Illness – Human Genetics



Pairo-Castineira E, et al. (2021) Nature 591, 92-98.

# Host Factors Associated with Severity of Disease

## Article

### A common allele of *HLA* is associated with asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection


<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06331-x>


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 Check for updates

Danillo G. Augusto<sup>1,2,3,18</sup>, Lawton D. Murdolo<sup>4,18</sup>, Demetra S. M. Chatzileontiadou<sup>4,5,18</sup>, Joseph J. Sabatino Jr<sup>1</sup>, Tasneem Yusufali<sup>1</sup>, Noah D. Peyser<sup>6</sup>, Xochitl Butcher<sup>6</sup>, Kerry Kizer<sup>1</sup>, Karoline Guthrie<sup>1</sup>, Victoria W. Murray<sup>7</sup>, Vivian Pae<sup>7</sup>, Sannidhi Sarvadhavabhatla<sup>7</sup>, Fiona Beltra Gurjot S. Gill<sup>7</sup>, Kara L. Lynch<sup>8</sup>, Cassandra Yun<sup>8</sup>, Colin T. Maguire<sup>9</sup>, Michael J. Peluso<sup>7</sup>, Rebecca Hoh<sup>7</sup>, Timothy J. Henrich<sup>10</sup>, Steven G. Deeks<sup>7</sup>, Michelle Davidson<sup>11</sup>, Scott Lu<sup>12</sup>, Sarah A. Goldberg<sup>12</sup>, J. Daniel Kelly<sup>12,13</sup>, Jeffrey N. Martin<sup>12</sup>, Cynthia A. Vierra-Green<sup>14</sup>, Stephen R. Spellman<sup>14</sup>, David J. Langton<sup>15</sup>, Michael J. Dewar-Oldis<sup>4</sup>, Corey Smith<sup>16</sup>, Peter J. Barnard<sup>4</sup>, Sulggi Lee<sup>7</sup>, Gregory M. Marcus<sup>6</sup>, Jeffrey E. Olgin<sup>6</sup>, Mark J. Pletcher<sup>12,17</sup>, Martin Maier<sup>14</sup>, Stephanie Gras<sup>4,5,19</sup> & Jill A. Hollenbach<sup>1,12,19</sup> 

Augusto DG, et al. (2023) Nature Aug; 620(7972):128-136.





## Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD)

CDC > Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) > What's New > 2022

Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD)

Who We Are +

What We Do +

What's New -

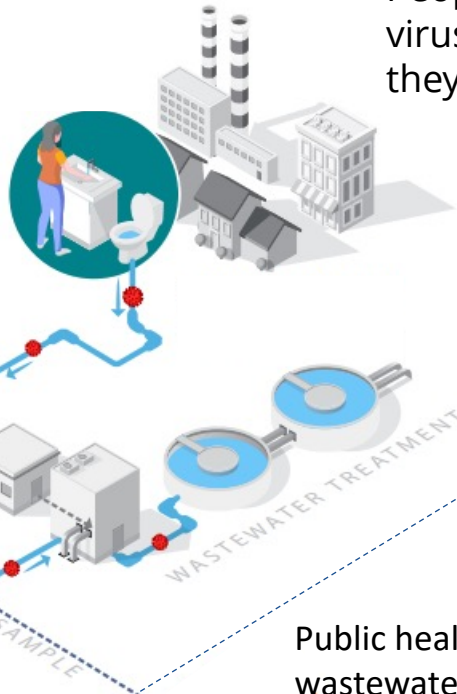
# Wastewater Surveillance: A New Frontier for Public Health



<https://www.cdc.gov/amd/whats-new/wastewater-surveillance.html>

# Wastewater Surveillance

The virus in poop is flushed down the toilet and travels through the sewage system.



People with COVID-19 can shed the virus in their feces (poop), even if they don't have symptoms.

Before wastewater is treated, wastewater technicians take samples to get information about the virus.

Public health officials use wastewater data to better understand COVID-19 trends in communities and make decisions, such as where to have mobile testing and vaccination sites.



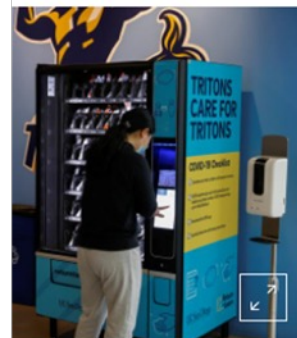
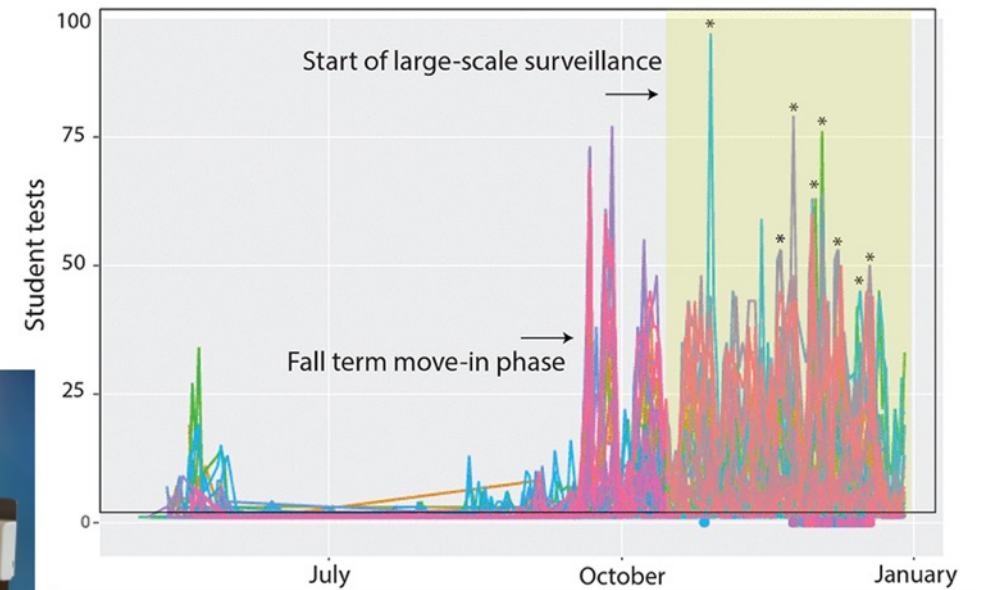
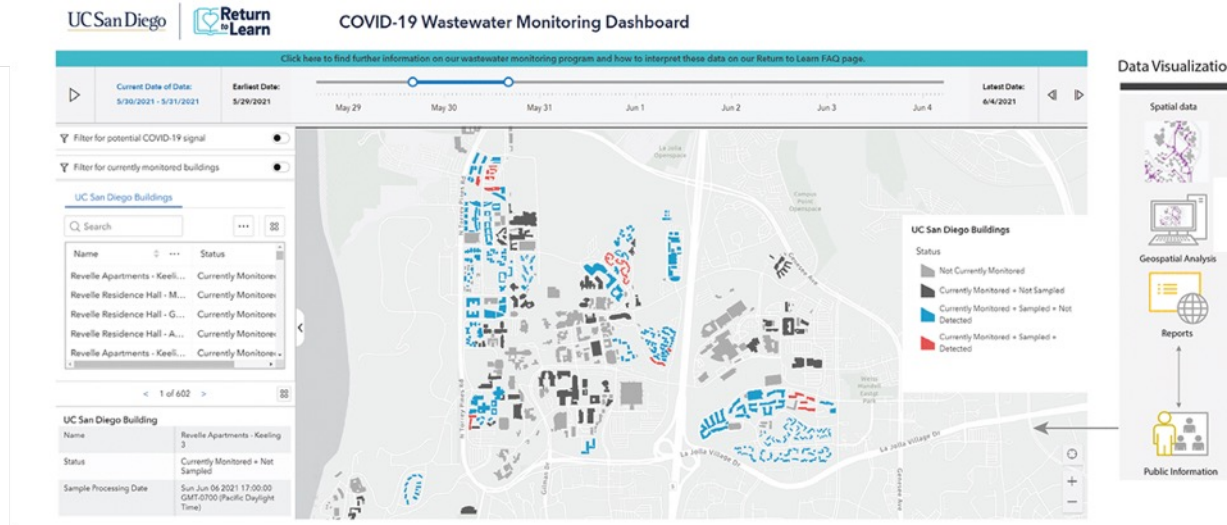
Laboratories test for the virus and measure virus levels in the wastewater.



Adapted from [www.cdc.gov/nwss](http://www.cdc.gov/nwss)



# Wastewater Surveillance to Public Health Action

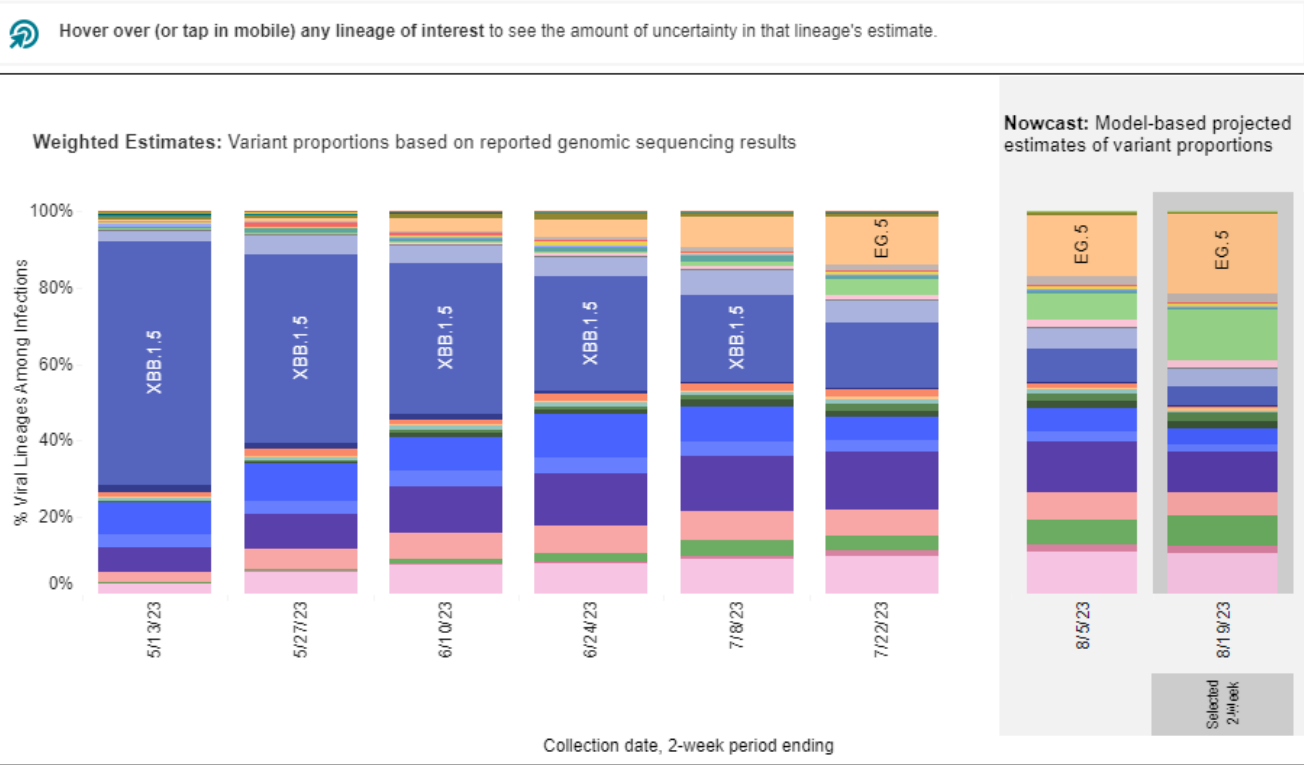


Adapted from Karthikeyan, et al. (2021)mSystems; 6(4):e0079321.  
Photo: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/uc-san-diego-offers-students-covid-test-kits-by-vending-machine-2021-01-06/> machine | Reuters

# SARS-CoV-2 Variant Tracking by Wastewater Monitoring

Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-Week Periods in 4/30/2023 – 8/19/2023

Nowcast Estimates in United States for 8/6/2023 – 8/19/2023



USA				
WHO label	Lineage #	US Class	%Total	95%PI
Omicron	EG.5		20.6%	17.8-23.8%
	FL.1.5.1		13.3%	9.4-18.4%
	XBB.1.16		10.7%	9.2-12.4%
	XBB.2.3		10.6%	8.6-13.0%
	XBB.1.16.6		8.0%	6.4-10.1%
	XBB.1.16.1		5.9%	5.1-6.9%
	XBB		5.1%	4.0-6.4%
	XBB.1.5		4.7%	4.0-5.6%
	XBB.1.9.1		4.1%	3.5-4.8%
	XBB.1.5.70		2.4%	1.7-3.4%
	EG.6.1		2.3%	1.6-3.3%
	XBB.1.16.11		1.9%	1.1-3.4%
	XBB.1.5.72		1.9%	1.5-2.4%
	XBB.1.9.2		1.8%	1.4-2.3%
	GE.1		1.8%	1.1-2.7%
	XBB.1.5.10		1.0%	0.7-1.4%
	FE.1.1		0.9%	0.5-1.5%
	FD.1.1		0.8%	0.5-1.4%
	CH.1.1		0.8%	0.5-1.2%
	XBB.1.5.68		0.6%	0.4-1.0%
XBB.1.5.59		0.4%	0.3-0.8%	
EU.1.1		0.2%	0.1-0.3%	
XBB.1.5.1		0.1%	0.1-0.1%	
BA.2.12.1		0.0%	0.0-0.2%	
BA.2		0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
FD.2		0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
BA.5		0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
BQ.1		0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
BQ.1.1		0.0%	0.0-0.0%	
Other	Other*		0.1%	0.0-0.1%

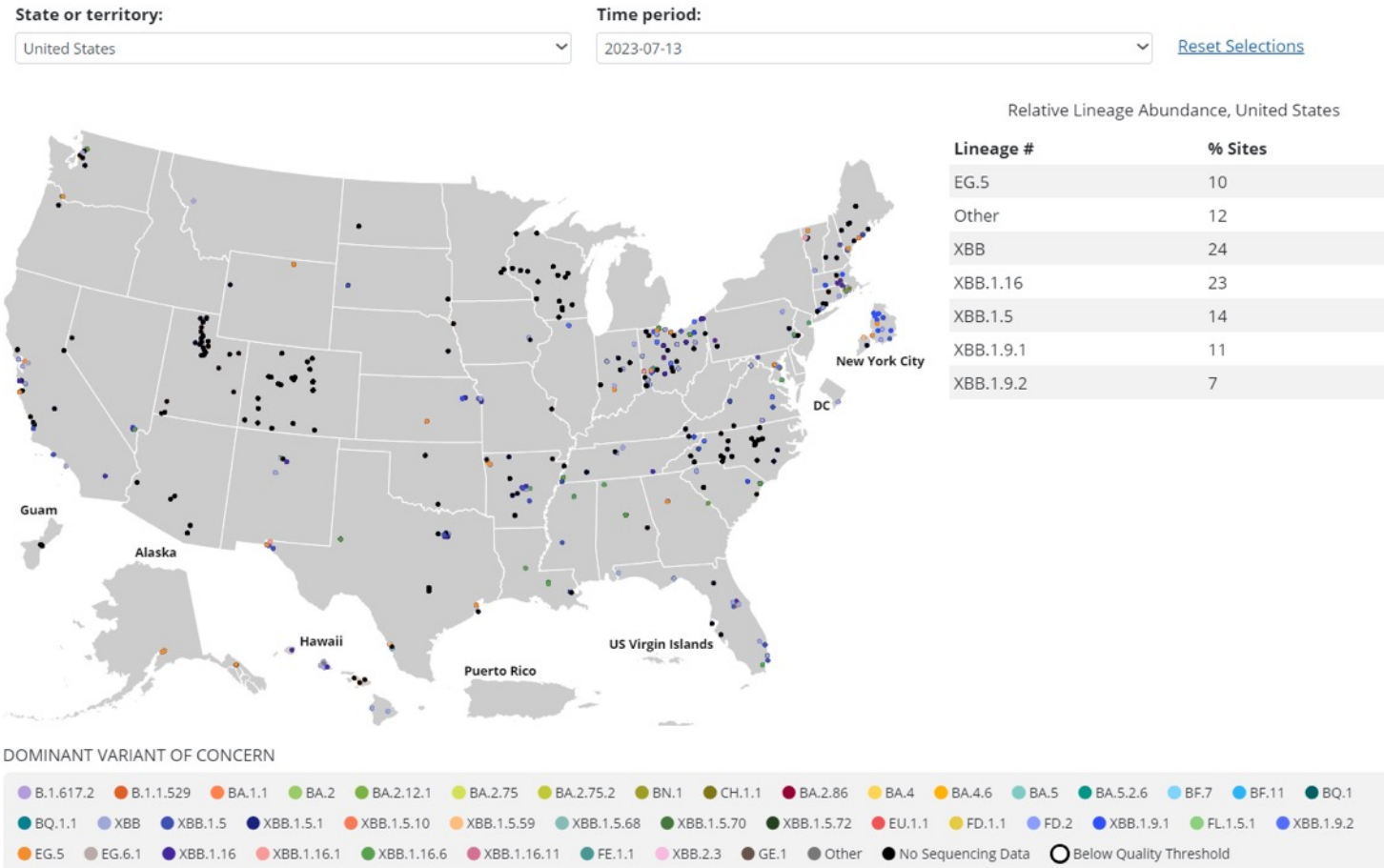
\* Enumerated lineages are US VOC and lineages circulating above 1% nationally in at least one 2-week period. "Other" represents the aggregation of lineages which are circulating <1% nationally during all 2-week periods displayed.  
 # BA.1, BA.3 and their sublineages (except BA.1.1 and its sublineages) are aggregated with B.1.1.529. Except BA.2.12.1, BA.2.75, XBB and their sublineages, BA.2 sublineages are aggregated with BA.2. Except BA.2.75.2, CH.1.1 and BN.1, BA.2.75 sublineages are aggregated with BA.2.75. Except BA.4.6, sublineages of BA.4 are aggregated to BA.4. Except BF.7, BF.11, BA.5.2.6, BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, sublineages of BA.5 are aggregated to BA.5. Except the lineages shown and their sublineages, sublineages of XBB are aggregated to XBB. Except XBB.1.5.1, XBB.1.5.10, FD.2, EU.1.1, XBB.1.5.68 and XBB.1.5.70 sublineages of XBB.1.5 are aggregated to XBB.1.5. Except FL.1.5.1, sublineages of XBB.1.9.1 are aggregated to XBB.1.9.1. Except XBB.1.16.1, XBB.1.16.11 sublineages of XBB.1.16 are aggregated to XBB.1.16. Except FE.1.1, sublineages of XBB.1.16.1 are aggregated to XBB.1.16. For all the other lineages listed, their sublineages are aggregated to the listed parental lineages respectively. Previously, FL.1.5.1, GE.1, EG.6.1, FD.1.1, was aggregated to XBB.1.9.1, XBB.2.3.10, XBB.1.9.2, and XBB.1.5.15 respectively. Lineages BA.2.75.2, XBB, XBB.1.5, XBB.1.5.1, XBB.1.5.10, FD.2, XBB.1.9.1, XBB.1.9.2, XBB.1.16, XBB.1.16.1, XBB.2.3, BN.1, BA.4.6, BF.7, BF.11, BA.5.2.6, BQ.1.1, EU.1.1, XBB.1.5.68, FE.1.1, EG.6.1, XBB.1.5.72, FL.1.5.1, GE.1, EG.6.1, XBB.1.16.11, FD.1.1 and XBB.1.5.70 contain the spike substitution R346T.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-summary>





# National Wastewater Surveillance System



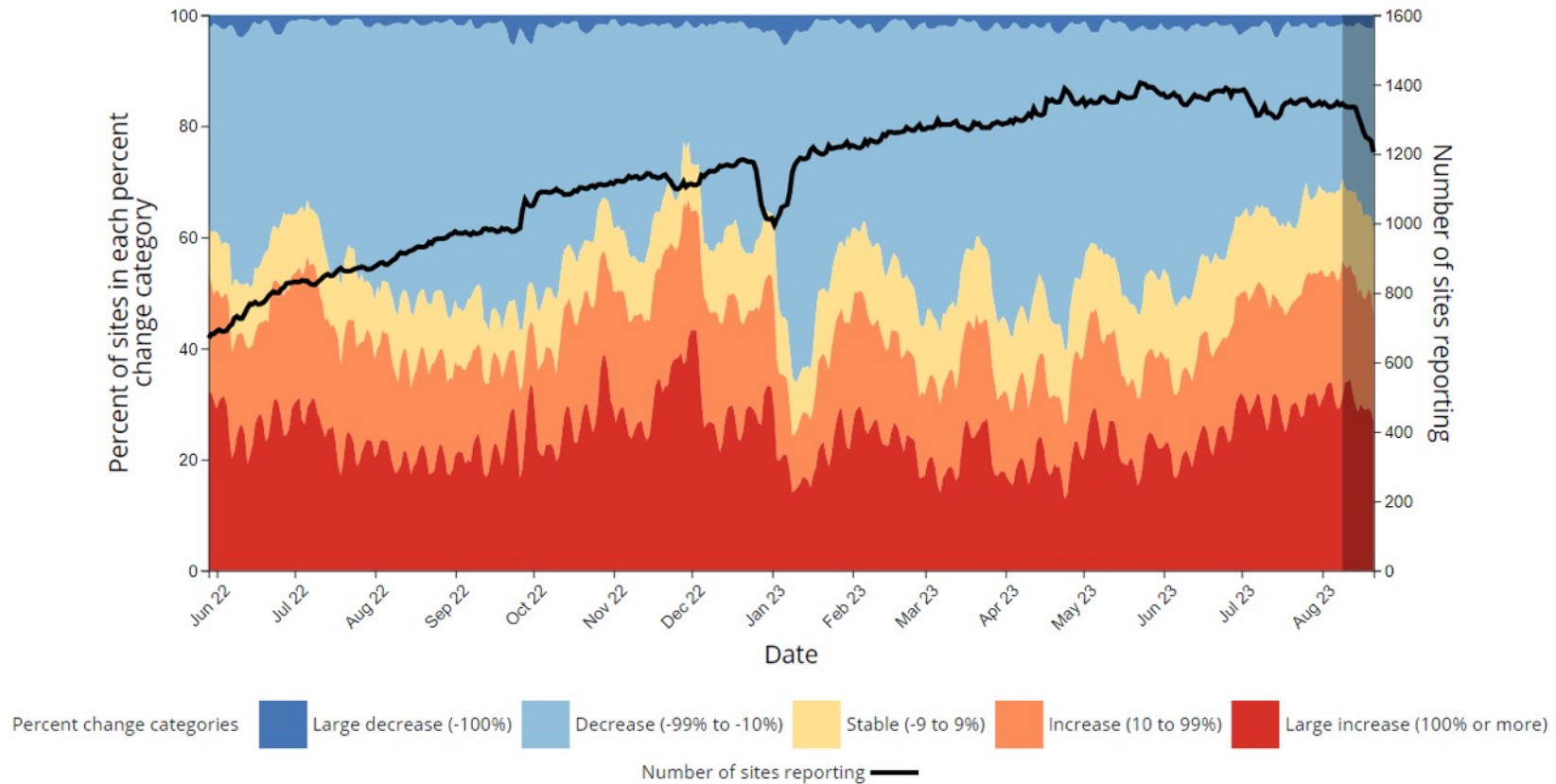
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance>





# Wastewater Metric Chart: SARS-CoV-2

Percent of sites in each percent change category over time, United States\*



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance>





Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD)

Who We Are +

What We Do +

What's New -

# CDC launches Traveler-based SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance Program

[Print](#)

Early warning detection system for new SARS-CoV-2 variants active at four US International airports



### PARTICIPATING AIRPORTS

Seattle (SEA)  
San Francisco (SFO)  
Los Angeles (LAX)

New York City (JFK)  
Newark (EWR)  
Washington D.C./Dulles (IAD)



<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-genomic-surveillance#impact>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/amd/whats-new/airport-genomic-surveillance.html>

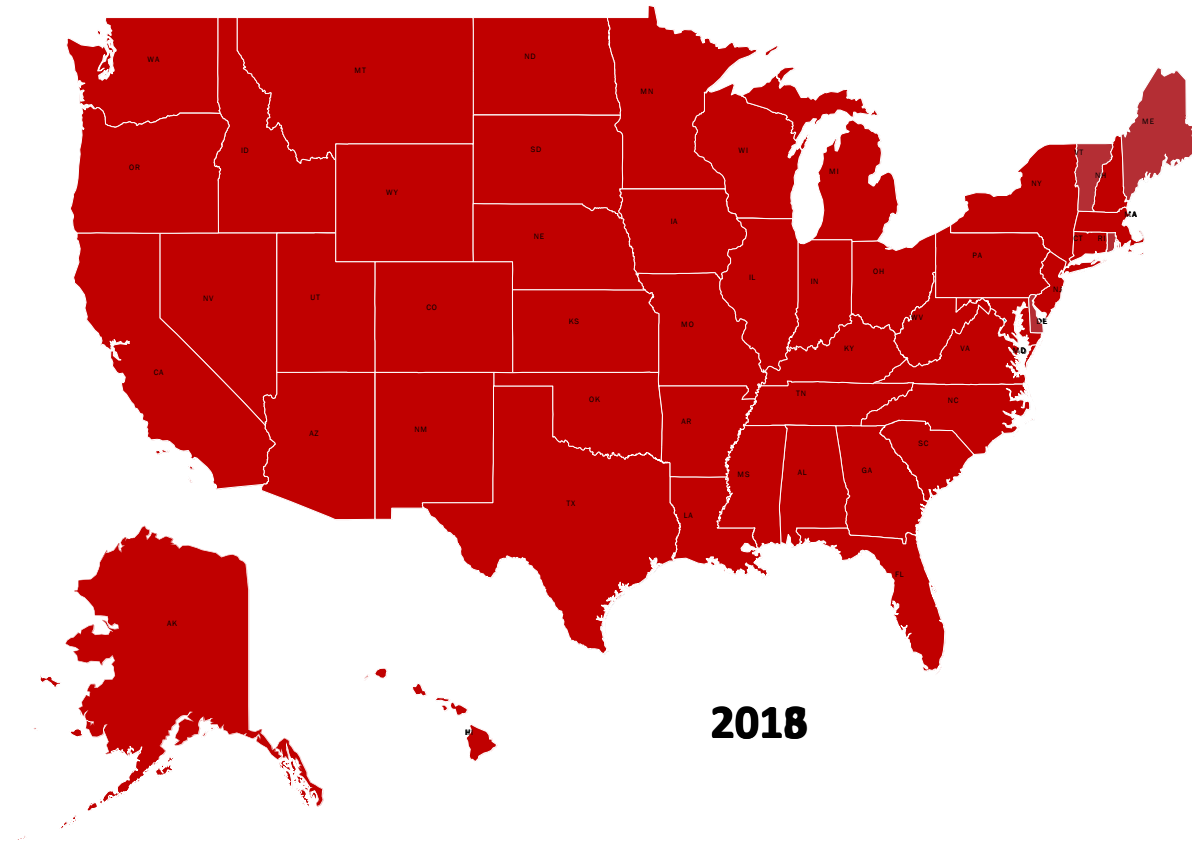








# NGS Capacity in the States (2013-2018)



- Growing list of applications
  - **PulseNet**
  - **Healthcare-associated infections**
  - Bacterial meningitis
  - Cryptococcus
  - Cyclospora
  - **Viral hepatitis**
  - Gonococcus
  - Influenza
  - **Legionella**
  - Malaria
  - Streptococcus
  - Tickborne diseases
  - **Tuberculosis**
  - ...



# AMD Workforce Development





## APHL-CDC Infectious Disease Bioinformatics Fellowship

### I am a Public Health Bioinformatician

Bioinformatics is revolutionizing the way the world tracks and detects infectious diseases. In public health, the use of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology has reshaped outbreak investigations and pathogen surveillance. Bioinformaticians are crucial for this transition to the use of NGS in public health. They develop pipelines and help interpret the data, identifying and characterizing pathogens; playing a vital role in the public health engine that keeps us all healthy.

The [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)'s [Advanced Molecular Detection](#) initiative is spearheading use of NGS technology in public health laboratories. The [Association of Public Health Laboratories \(APHL\)](#) and CDC Office of Advanced Molecular Detection (OAMD) are offering exciting fellowship opportunities for graduates of bioinformatics and related programs to apply their skillset and become part of the public health engine.

"The work is both satisfying and gratifying. I'm getting to use my knowledge and my position to make an impactful and meaningful difference in people's lives by preventing illness and fighting the spread of disease through modern surveillance and computational techniques.

— Logan Fink, 2018 Fellow  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

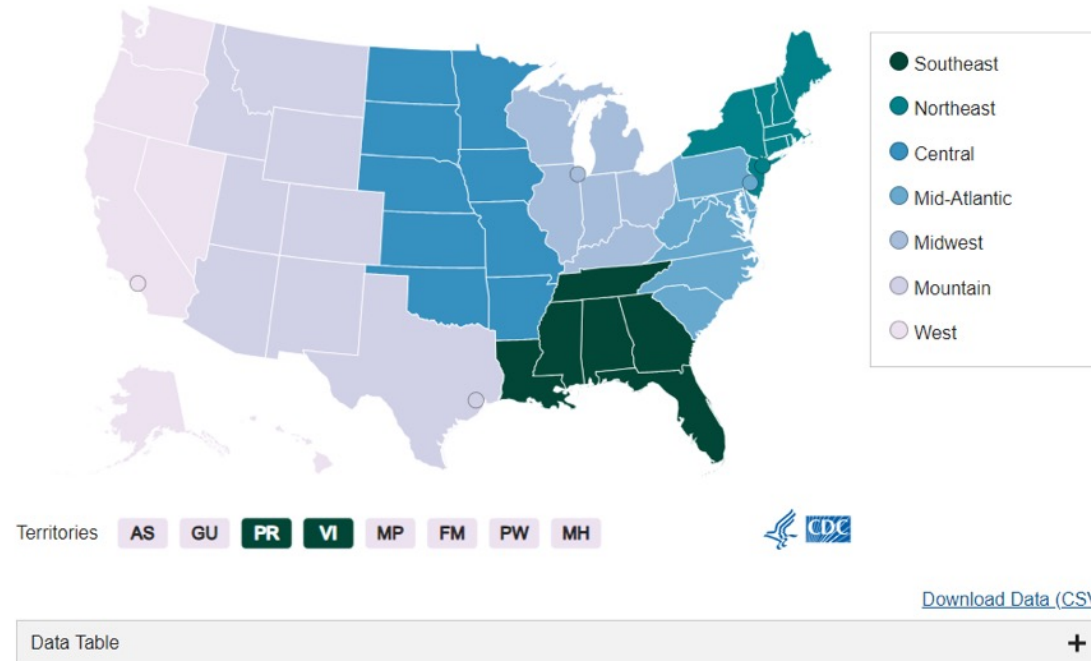


Learn more about this and other  
APHL-CDC Fellowship Programs:  
[www.aphl.org/fellowships](http://www.aphl.org/fellowships)

Follow Us! #APHLFellows



# Workforce Development



**AMD Regional Workforce Development Training Leads** provide support to labs within the region and across regions on cross-cutting AMD training to help staff develop the critical skills necessary to extract, analyze, and interpret sequencing data. Regional training may incorporate local or regional resources or collaboration with academic institutions.

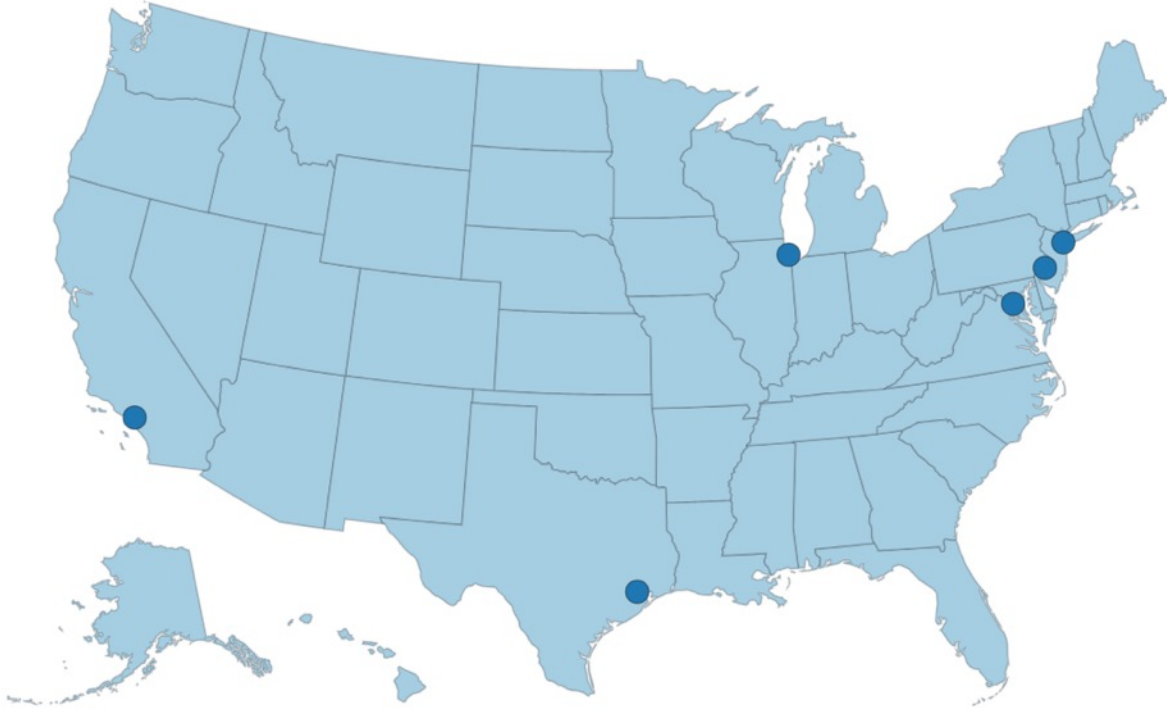
**AMD Regional Bioinformatics Support Leads** act as regional consultants. Often referred to as Bioinformatics Regional Resource, or BRRs, they provide support to labs within the region and across regions to help develop national bioinformatics. The state public health lab serving as the BRR may also be the AMD Training Lead for the region. In addition to assisting with training, BRRs assist state and local staff with data analysis. They also consult with local or state IT departments, CDC, and other partners on how to implement or expand the use of AMD technologies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/amd/investments/index.html>



# AMD Investments: 64 Jurisdictions

## AMD Investments



Legend

- State or Territory
- Local health department

Territories AS GU PR VI MP FM PW MH



<https://www.cdc.gov/amd/investments/index.html>





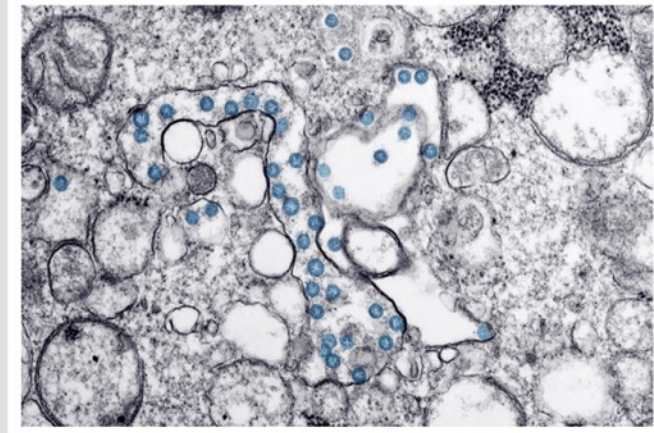
The **SPHERES** consortium brings together over **1,250** scientists from more than **200** organizations in a network of federal, state, private, academic, and non-profit organizations in the **largest public health sequencing effort** in US history.



This illustration is a non-exhaustive depiction of the organizations in the SPHERES consortium. Inclusion of an organization's logo or name in this image is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation between the entities shown.

## Labs Across U.S. Join Federal Initiative to Study Coronavirus Genome

The project, announced by the C.D.C., will help trace patterns of transmission, investigate outbreaks and map how the virus is evolving, which can affect a cure.



Virus particles, marked in blue, that were taken from an early Covid-19 patient in the U.S. C.D.C./E.P.A., via Shutterstock

By Sheri Fink

Published April 30, 2020 Updated May 6, 2020

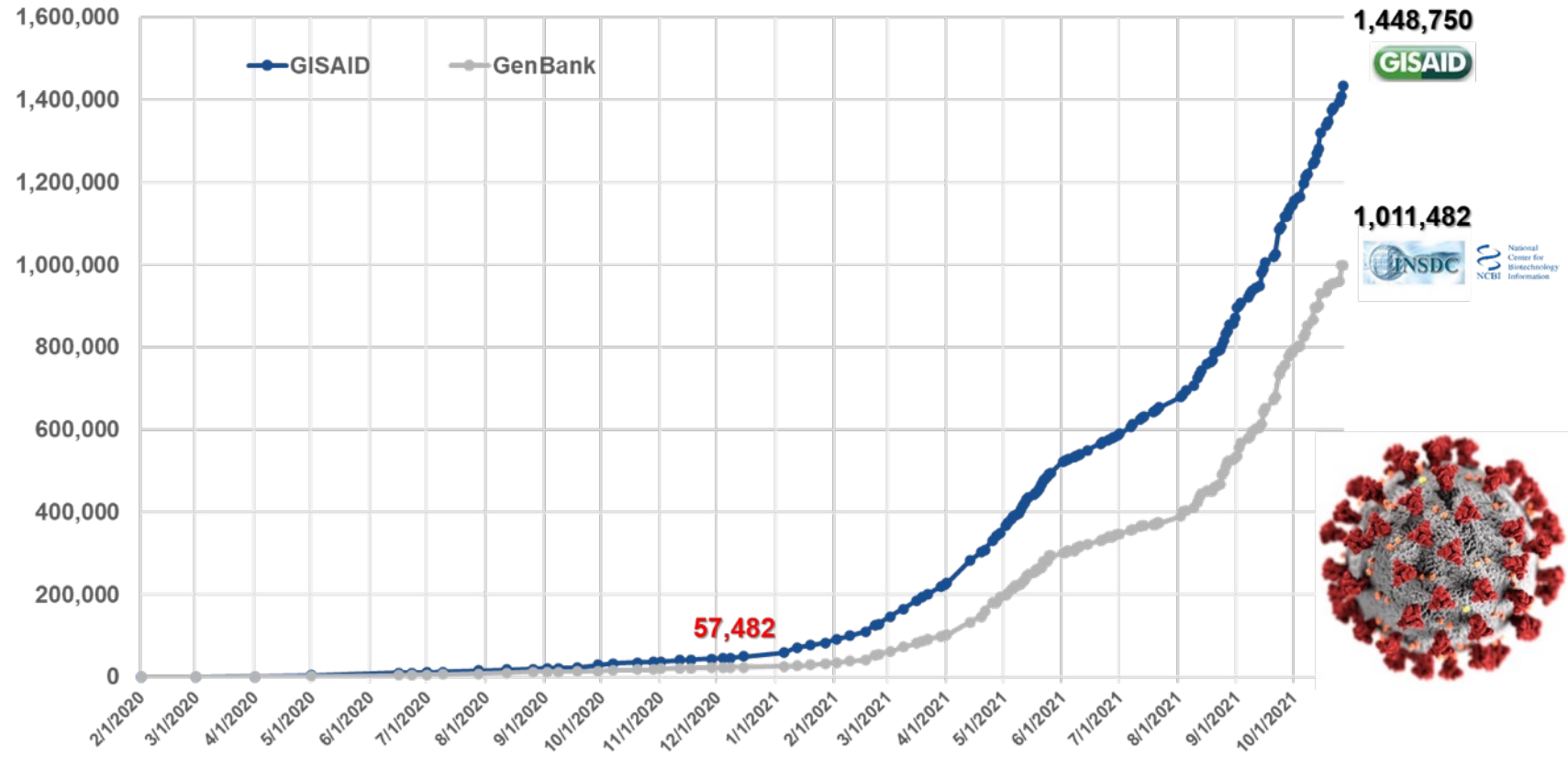
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday announced a national initiative to speed research into how the [coronavirus](#) was spreading around the country, bringing together at least 75 public health, academic and commercial institutions studying its genome.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/30/science/coronavirus-genetic-sequencing.html>





# Public SARS-CoV-2 Sequence Data from US Laboratories



# COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit



## Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD)

CDC > [Advanced Molecular Detection \(AMD\)](#)



🏠 [Advanced Molecular Detection \(AMD\)](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[What We Do](#) +

[What's New](#) +

**[COVID-19 Gen Epi Toolkit](#)** -

[Toolkit Developers](#) +

[How it Works](#) +

[Resources](#) +

### Related Topics

[CDC 24-7](#)

[Vital Signs](#)

[CDC Newsroom](#)

## COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit

The Office of Advanced Molecular Detection presents this toolkit to address topics related to the application of genomics to epidemiologic investigations and public health response to SARS-CoV-2. The COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit is meant to further the use of genomics in responding to COVID-19 at the state and local level.

Each module includes a dedicated survey to inform future training development. We value your input.

 [Meet the developers](#)

### On this Page

[Welcome and Overview](#)

[Part 1: Introduction](#)

[Part 2: Case Studies](#)

[Part 3: Implementation](#)

### Welcome and Overview



COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit  
Module 0 - Introduction

Welcome and Overview

Gregory L. Armstrong, MD  
Director, Office of Advanced Molecular Detection  
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**Overview:** CDC's Dr. Greg Armstrong gives an introduction to the COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit and describes the role for genome sequencing in public health.

**Posted:** 01/08/21

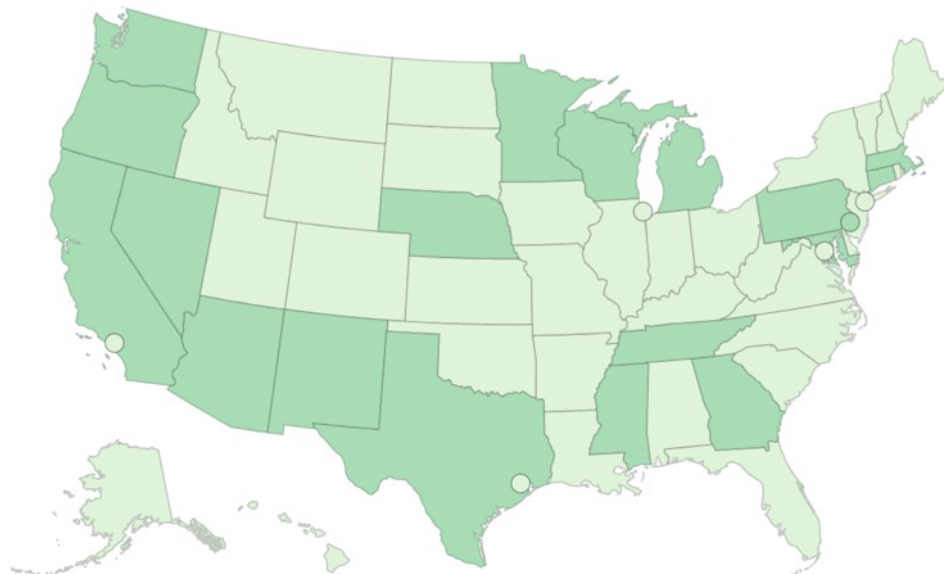
**Presenter:** Gregory L. Armstrong, MD  
Director, Advanced Molecular Detection Program, CDC

[ToolkitModule\\_0](#)  [PDF - 15 slides]

# Innovation: Broad Agency Announcement Awards

University and Research Partners

**39 Research Awards to Date**



### Legend

Funding awards are determined through a competitive selection process based on scientific needs and available funds.

○ N/A

● Research Project(s)

Bioinformatic analysis tools

Patterns of SARS-CoV-2 spread

Host markers associated with COVID-19 severity

Multi-modal data integration and analysis

Transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 variants

Territories

AS

GU

PR

VI

MP

FM

PW

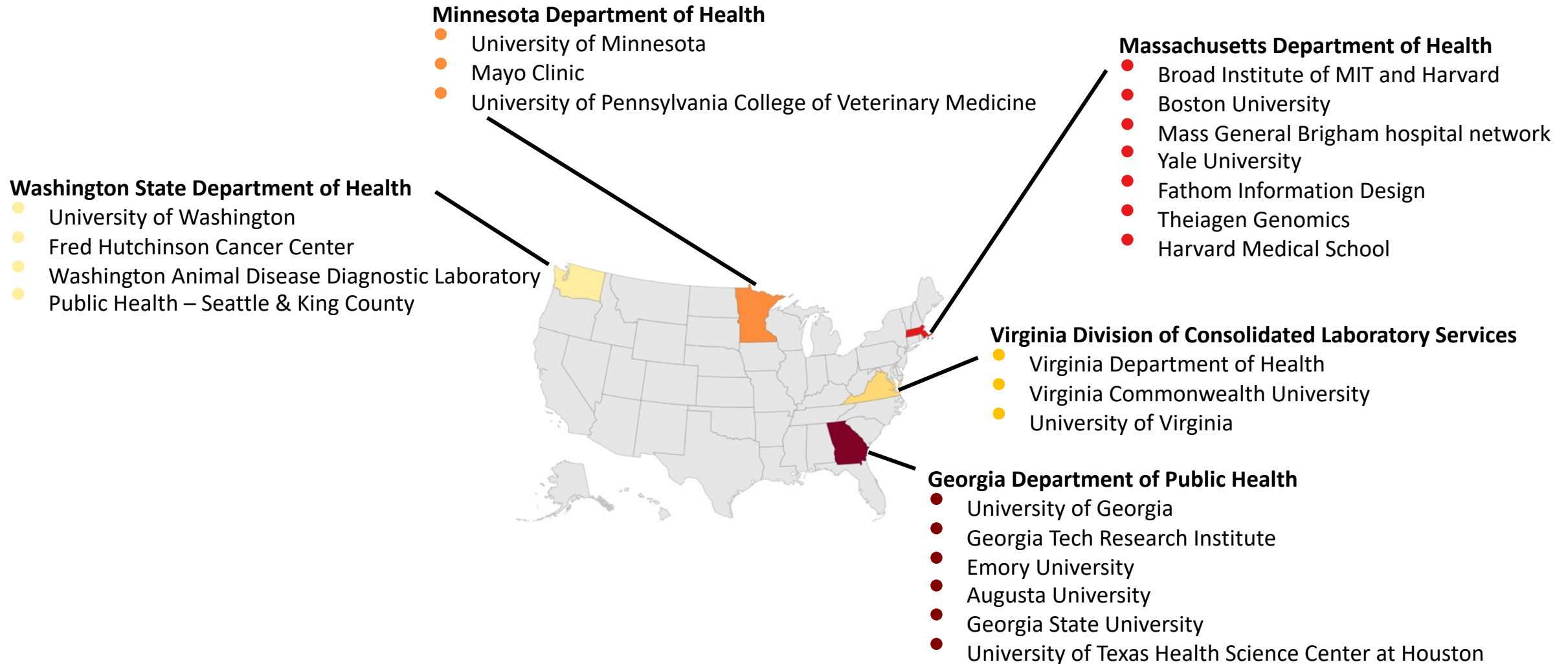
MH



<https://www.cdc.gov/amd/investments/index.html>



# Pathogen Genomics Centers of Excellence Network



# Pathogen Genomics Centers of Excellence



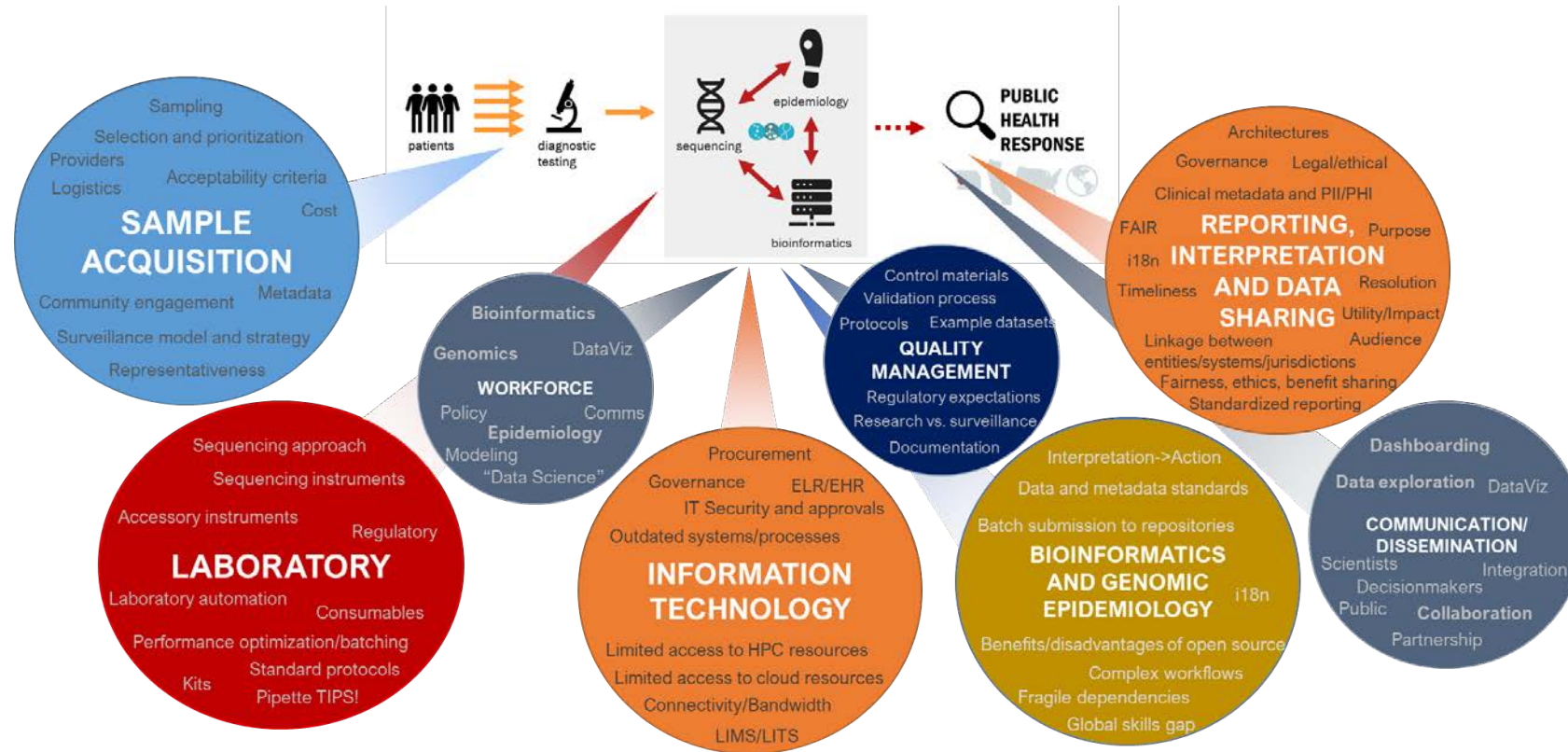
**Innovation**

**Education**

**Response**



# Challenges and Opportunities



# Resources



## Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD)

[Print](#)

*Advanced molecular detection (AMD) integrates the latest next-generation genomic sequencing technologies with bioinformatics and epidemiology expertise across CDC and the nation to help us find, track, and stop disease-causing pathogens faster than ever before.*

### What's New

**Three of a Kind: CDC researchers find Cyclospora is not just a single species**

*Posted on August 8, 2023*

**SPHERES 3-year Anniversary Announcement**

*Posted on May 1, 2023*

**OAMD New Director Announcement**

*Posted on April 24, 2023*

[Learn more on our What's New page](#)



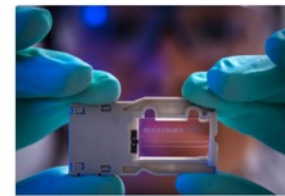
AMD National Investments

[Learn more](#)



COVID-19 Genomic Epidemiology Toolkit


[Learn more](#)




[www.cdc.gov/amd](http://www.cdc.gov/amd)




LABORATORY SCIENTISTS USE  
**GENOMIC SEQUENCING**  
 TO GATHER GENETIC DATA ON  
 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PATHOGENS  
 TO DETERMINE HOW THEY  
 MOVE FROM ANIMALS TO PEOPLE,  
 BECOME RESISTANT TO ANTIMICROBIALS, AND  
 SPREAD IN POPULATIONS.


 GENOME SEQUENCING

 U.S. Department of  
 Health and Human Services  
 Centers for Disease  
 Control and Prevention

**ADVANCED  
 MOLECULAR  
 DETECTION**  
 www.cdc.gov/amd


EXPERTS IN BIOINFORMATICS  
 USE HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING  
 TO INTEGRATE DATA FROM EPIDEMIOLOGIC  
 INVESTIGATIONS AND GENOMIC SEQUENCING.  
**THEY CONNECT THE DOTS,**  
 EXPLORING HOW PATHOGENS SPREAD, MUTATE,  
 AND DEVELOP ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE  
 TO HELP SOLVE OUTBREAKS.


 BIOINFORMATICS

 U.S. Department of  
 Health and Human Services  
 Centers for Disease  
 Control and Prevention

**ADVANCED  
 MOLECULAR  
 DETECTION**  
 www.cdc.gov/amd

EXPERTS INVESTIGATE DISEASE OUTBREAKS  
**USING EPIDEMIOLOGY**  
 BY ANALYZING CONTACT NETWORKS,  
 FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES,  
 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION, AND GENOMIC DATA  
 TO DETERMINE HOW A DISEASE  
 IS SPREADING IN THE COMMUNITY.

 EPIDEMIOLOGY

 U.S. Department of  
 Health and Human Services  
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Thank you. <http://www.cdc.gov/amd>

