



Naming system for virus variants

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- The World Health Organization (WHO) would unveil a system of naming of **coronavirus variants drawn from the way tropical cyclones** and hurricanes are named.
- The new naming system is so as not to stigmatise and de incentivise countries from making their sequencing results public. **It will also be easier for the lay public to remember** rather than complicated lineage numbers.
- The WHO and health and science agencies across the world refer to viruses and their variants by formal lineage names, which are a combination of letters and names **that point to the relationship between different variants.**
- However, because virus names and their associated diseases have frequently been **named after geographical places where outbreaks were first reported** or samples first isolated- such as the West Nile virus or Ebola.

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