

What are genomic variants, and how do we use them to study the virus?

1

The virus infects a person and replicates many times.

2

Each time the virus is passed to a new person, this process is repeated.

3

Sometimes, the virus makes a small mistake during this process, but this mistake doesn't necessarily prevent it from spreading.

4

In a group of infected individuals, it's not always clear who was infected where and when...unless you can sequence the viral genome.

5

With the date of symptom onset and a list of places a person has been, the chain of transmission can be pieced together.



GAUUACAUA**G**



GAC**U**ACAUA**G**



GAC**U**AC**G**UA**G**

