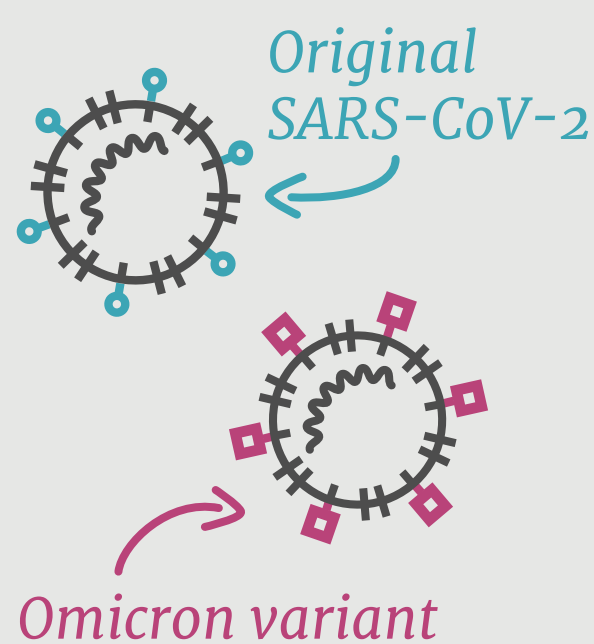


COVID-19 vaccination & viral variants

What is a viral variant?

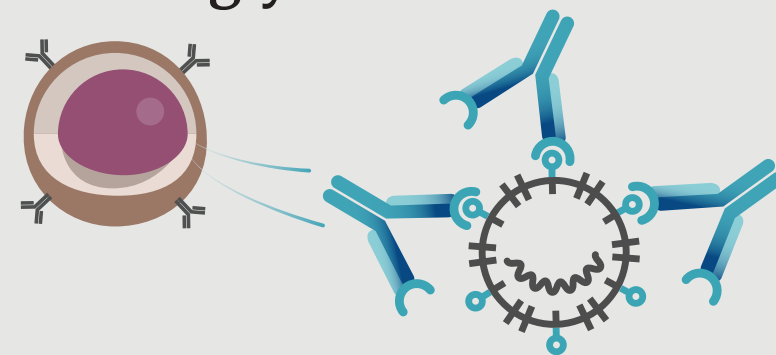
A version of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus that has evolved & changed shape, which can alter its behaviour.



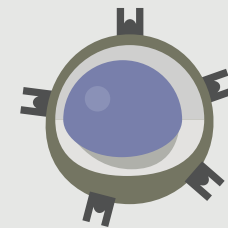
What is immunity?

The immune response generated by **vaccination or infection** activates:

B cells which make highly specific antibodies that bind to the virus & stop it entering your cells.



T cells which can stimulate B cells & kill infected cells.

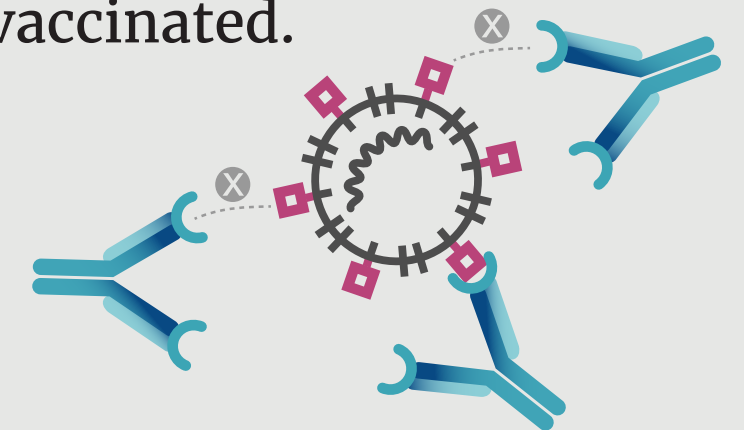


The cells & antibodies remain in the body to protect against future infection. This is **immunity** but immunity can wane over time.

What is immune evasion?

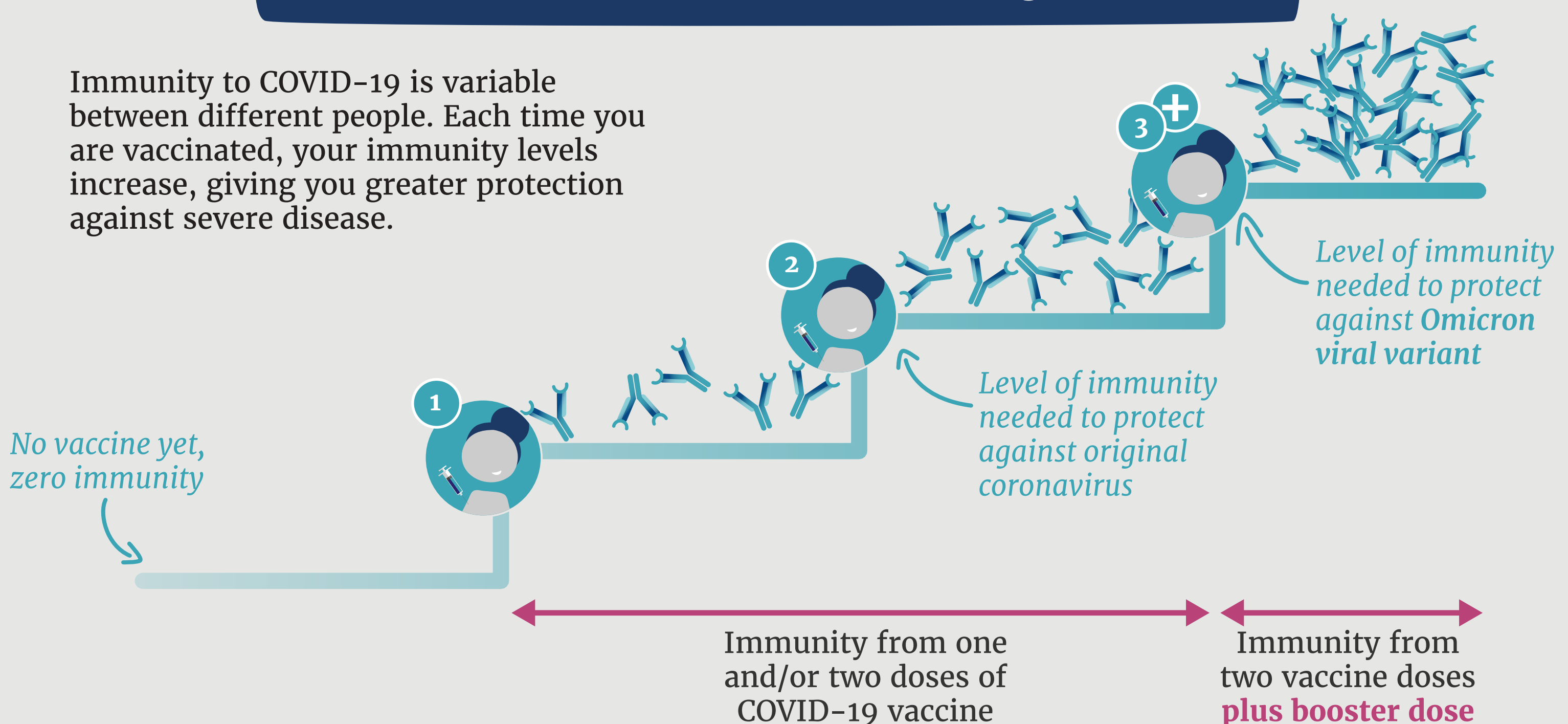
Some viral variants can infect you even when you have immunity.

Antibodies aren't as good at recognising the variant's shape so the virus can cause an infection. This is likely to cause less severe disease if you're vaccinated.



Boosters are important for enhancing immunity

Immunity to COVID-19 is variable between different people. Each time you are vaccinated, your immunity levels increase, giving you greater protection against severe disease.



Booster vaccinations are **effective & safe** at enhancing immunity.
Booster vaccines increase the level & quality of antibodies & improve T cells.
This is the best protection against viral variants & severe COVID-19.

