

Are You Smarter Than a Bug?

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Humans aren't especially big, or fast, or strong. We don't have fur, or fangs, or claws. We can't swim like fish or fly like birds. So, how did we succeed? We used our brains. We learned.

Nature learns, too, through [mutation](#). Every living thing reproduces, and each time it gets a chance to mutate. We mutated, and [our brains tripled in size](#). Our intelligence surged, and we learned how to survive even a deadly pandemic.

We learned that masks and social distancing work. We created vaccines. [We slashed daily cases from 250,000 in January to 8,000 in June](#). But we didn't kill the bug.

Meanwhile, it mutated, and the [Delta variant](#) learned to be [more contagious, more lethal](#). Daily cases have spiked to [125,000](#). Even more alarming, [hospitals in southern states report record numbers of children under 12 hospitalized with Covid](#). We cannot vaccinate them yet. We have to protect them by vaccinating ourselves.

The good news is that [the vaccines still work against this variant](#). The bad news is that [only half of Americans are fully vaccinated](#), and many people, [especially here in the south](#), refuse to help. [In the last two weeks, North Carolina has seen Covid cases jump by 169%, hospitalizations by 86%, and needless deaths by 91%](#).

More cases mean more mutations. One of those mutations may learn how to defeat the vaccines. If that happens, we will all be unprotected. Again.

We're in a race against a mutating bug, a race between our intelligence and its adaptability. The winner will be the one that learns faster.

Are you smarter than a bug? Will you learn from the fact that [virtually all new Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths involve people who are unvaccinated?](#) Use your brain. Get vaccinated.

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