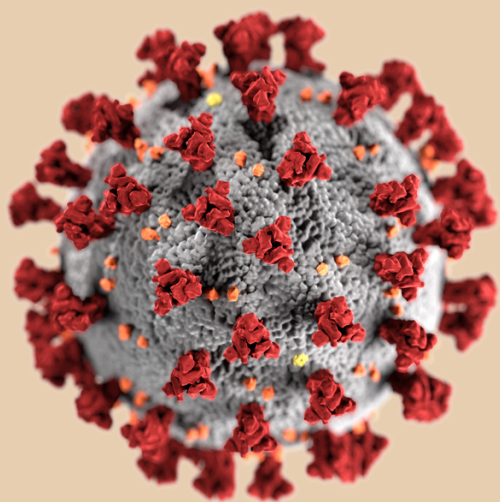


Can we get rid of Covid-19 forever?



Video Vox - Duration = 8:13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34oI0yd5YUc>

The source

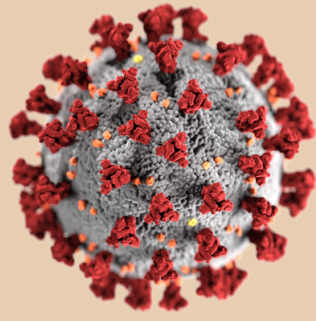
- Vox → American online news website and YouTube channel
- Founded in 2014
- Short documentary-style explainer videos
- Science and current issues



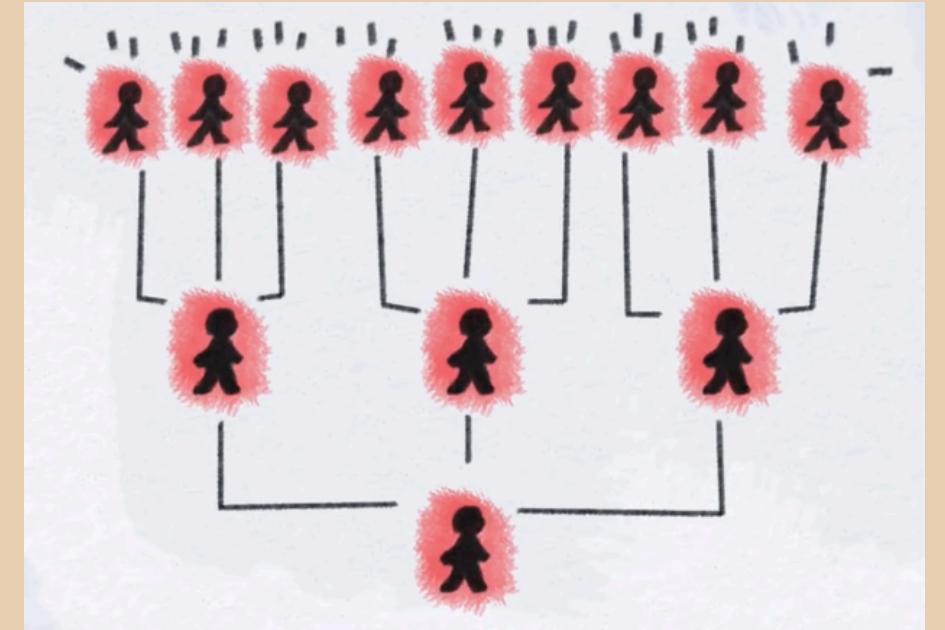
The context

- March 2021 → one year after the start of the pandemic
- Beginning of vaccination campaign

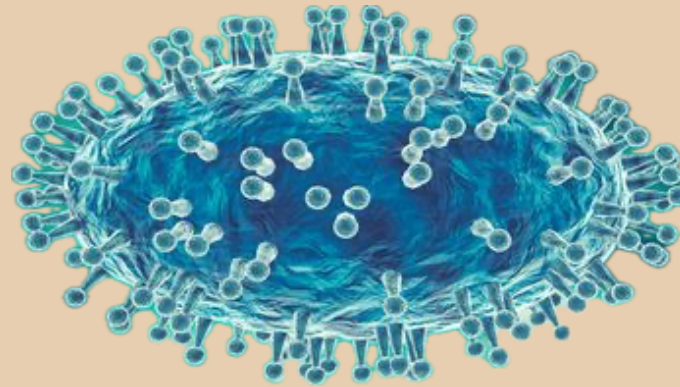
Covid 2019



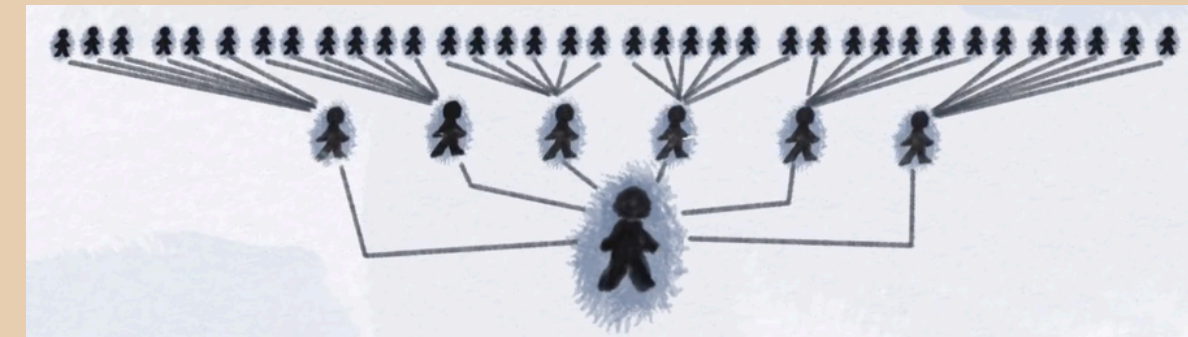
- One infected person → transmit the virus to two or three other people → who can infect others
- Death rate → relatively low → one death for every 200 infected people
- Covid-19 → more than two million deaths around the world in just one year



Smallpox



- Each infected person could infect four to six others
- Percentage of people dying from the disease → 30%
- Hundreds of millions of deaths during the 20th century
- Smallpox was eventually eradicated



The main concepts of the video

1. Vaccination



2. No animal reservoirs



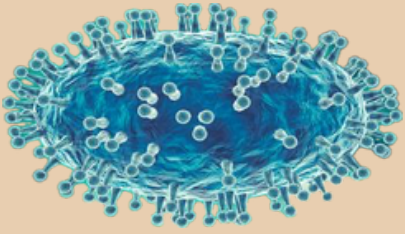
3. Global collaboration



4. Targeted strategy: ring vaccination

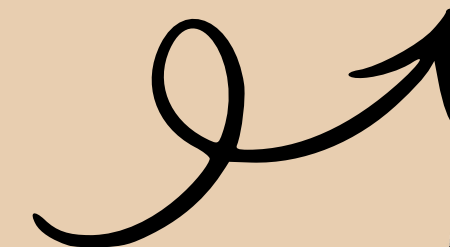


1. Vaccination

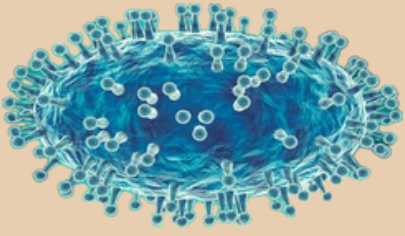


- To prevent it → people had to be exposed to the disease → serious consequences.
- Edward Jenner → another method → vaccination → protection → fewer risks.
- Significant decrease in the number of people infected with smallpox.

Edward Jenner



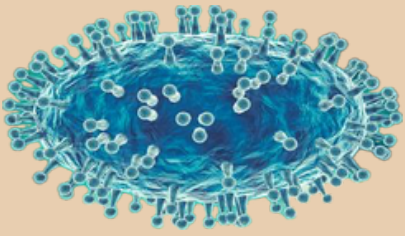
2. Absence of animal reservoir



- Unlike some diseases → malaria or Ebola → smallpox → transmitted between humans.
- By vaccinating people → possible to prevent the virus from finding new people to infect.



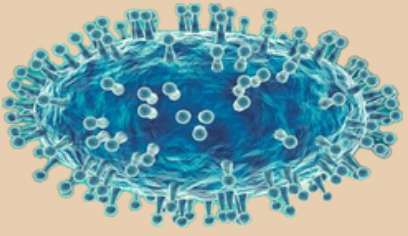
3. Global collaboration



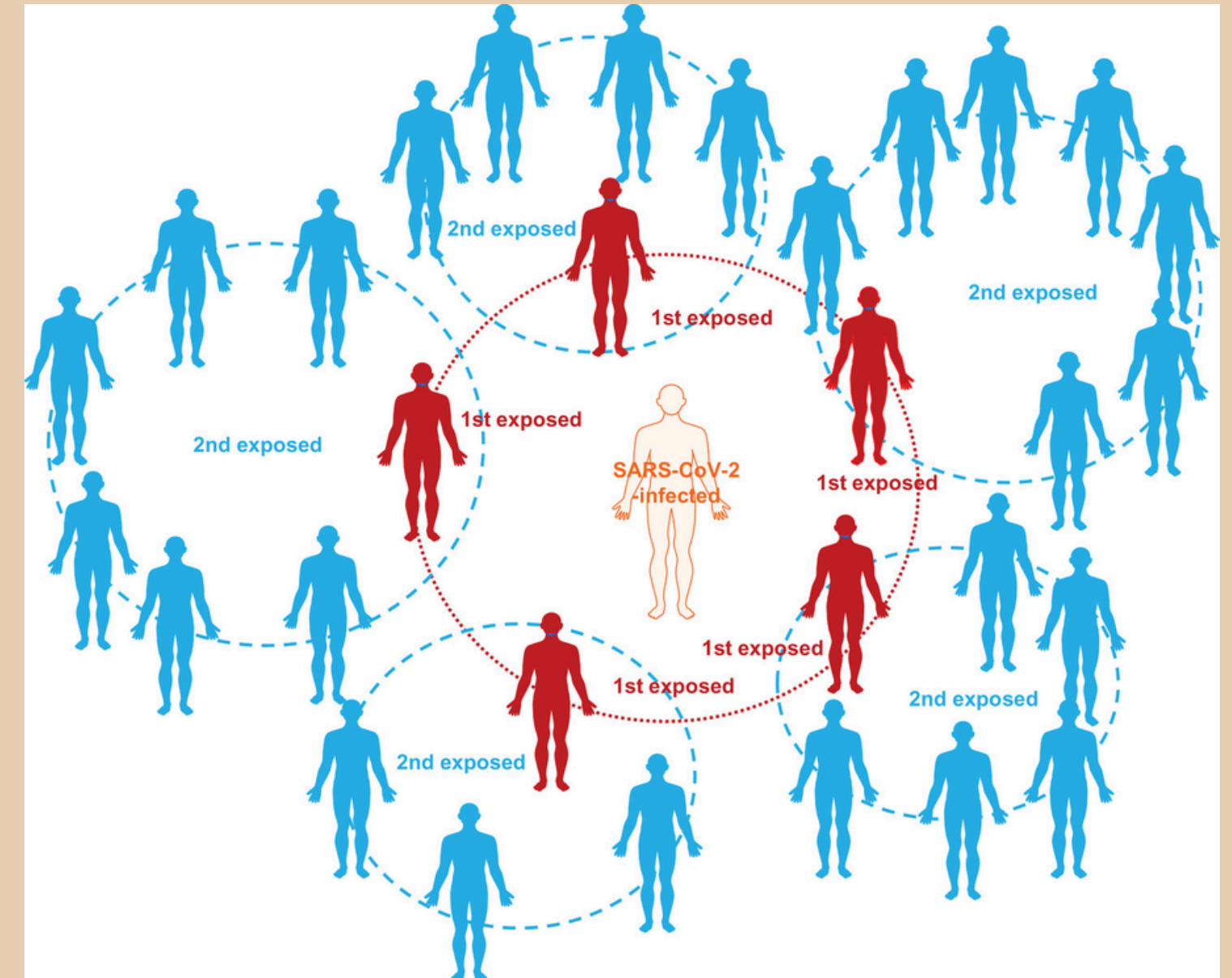
- Not all countries succeeded in eradicating the disease as quickly.
- Countries with fewer resources, political problems, or very large populations
→ more difficulty vaccinating their populations.
- Countries needed to work together.
- 1967 → WHO → joint plan to try to completely eliminate the disease.
- Vaccination campaigns were then organized in different regions of the world.



4. Ring vaccination



- Initially → vaccinate everyone.
- Difficult in densely populated areas like India.
- The WHO changed its approach → teams focused on infected individuals and their contacts.
- Sick person → isolation + those who had been in contact with this person → vaccination + same process repeated with those who had been in contact with them.



Vaccination



- Vaccines are not the problem → new technologies
- The problem = the characteristics of the virus

Animal reservoir



- COVID-19 → originated in bats.
- Even if the virus were successfully eliminated in all humans → potentially reappear from animals.

Global collaboration



- At the beginning of the pandemic → countries didn't always cooperate sufficiently.
- Some countries restricted the export of equipment or medicines.
- Wealthy nations purchased a large share of the available vaccines → fewer doses for poorer countries.

Ring vaccination



- A person can be contagious before showing symptoms, or even never show symptoms at all → difficult to know who is infected and who has been in contact with that person.

Vocabulary

- Fatality rate → the percentage of people who die after contracting a disease.
- Contact tracing → finding and monitoring people who have been in contact with an infected person.
- Ring vaccination → vaccinating the contacts around an infected person to create a “ring” of protection.
- Animal reservoir → an animal species in which a virus can survive and from which it can potentially spread to humans.
- To wipe out → to completely eliminate something.
- To spread unchecked → to continue spreading without effective control.

Warning !



Be careful with the three “demic”:

- **Epidemic**: affects a region.
- **Pandemic**: affects the whole world.
- **Endemic**: regularly present in a particular area.

Pronunciation tips

Disease /dɪ'ziːz/

- The stress is on the second syllable.
- The beginning /dɪ/ sounds like a very short "di".
- /ziːz/: the z sound is important → it is not a French "s".

Vaccine /'væk.siːn/

- The stress is on the first syllable.
- /væk/: the a is very open, like the English "a" in cat.
- /siːn/: the i is long.

Eradicate /ɪ'ræd.ɪ.keɪt/

- The main stress is on the second syllable.
- The ending /keɪt/ contains the diphthong /eɪ/, as in day.
- The final t should be audible.

It's now time to watch the video !

