

WHEN A VIRUS SAMPLE IS SEQUENCED, THE DATA CONSIST OF...



1

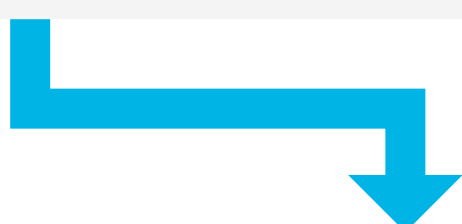
GAUUACAUAG

Virus genome

+

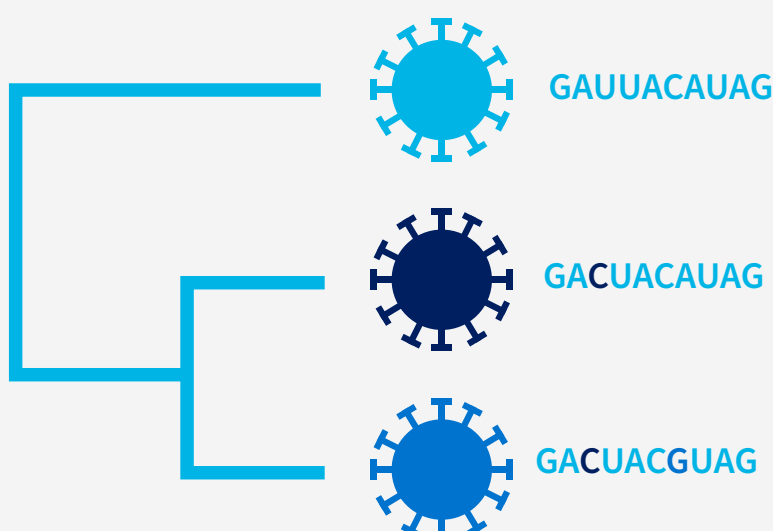
Patient's age, location, sex, sample collection date, etc.

Metadata



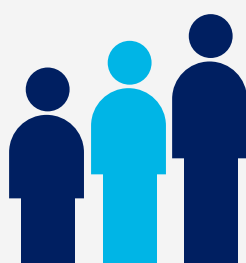
2

The virus' genome alone can tell us how this virus is related to other viruses that have been sequenced.



3

BUT...



Does the virus affect all age groups the same way?

Does the virus affect both sexes the same way?



Which types of the virus are more common across the country at different time points?

To answer these questions, we also need metadata.



4

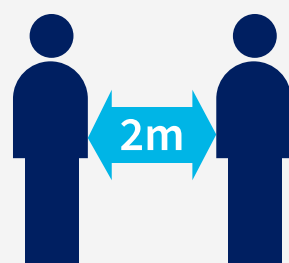
Canadian researchers, policy and law experts have developed a framework for sharing both virus genome data and metadata in a way that:



Protects individual privacy.



Prevents patient re-identification.



Gives public health officials information to make decisions that can keep people safe.