The race between vaccines and variants: vaccinating before widespread variant exposure

Two example scenarios:

Strong vaccine coverage & social distancing	Less vaccine coverage & social distancing
• Overall case declines	• Case increases
• Easier to control variant spread	• Variants uncontrolled
• Lower case fatality rate (due to fewer cases and less variant spread)	• Higher case fatality rate (more cases, more variant spread)
• Prevents opportunities for new variants/vaccine escape	• More opportunities for variants/vaccine escape

The race between vaccines and variants: uncontrolled variants necessitate higher vaccine goals