

The Possibility of COVID-19 after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections

Updates from the CDC: To maximize protection from the [Delta variant](#) and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an [area of substantial or high transmission](#).

Updated Aug. 23, 2021

- COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting infected and severely ill, and significantly reduce the likelihood of hospitalization and death.
- The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent infection by Delta or other variants is to get vaccinated.
- For people who are vaccinated and still get infected (i.e., “breakthrough infections”), there is a risk of transmission to others.
- If you are vaccinated or unvaccinated and live or work in an area with [substantial or high transmission](#) of COVID-19, you – as well as your family and community – will be better protected if you wear a mask when you are in indoor public places.
- People who are [immunocompromised](#) may not always build adequate levels of protection after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- Further, CDC recommends that moderately to severely [immunocompromised people receive an additional dose](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing infection, serious illness, and death. Most people who get COVID-19 are unvaccinated. However, since vaccines are not 100% effective at preventing infection, some people who are [fully vaccinated](#) will still get COVID-19. An infection of a fully vaccinated person is referred to as a “breakthrough infection.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>

Vaccines

Vaccines in the US are highly effective, including against the Delta variant

- Vaccines continue to reduce a person’s risk of contracting the virus that cause COVID-19, including this variant. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. But they are not 100% effective and some fully vaccinated people will become infected (called a breakthrough infection) and experience illness. For such people, the vaccine still provides them strong protection against serious illness and death.

Masks

Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine coverage, layered prevention strategies, such as wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this variant

- At this time, as we build the level of vaccination nationwide, we must also use all the prevention strategies available, including masking indoors in public places, to stop transmission and stop the epidemic.
- Vaccines are playing a crucial role in limiting spread of the virus and minimizing severe disease. Although vaccines are highly effective, they are not perfect and there will be vaccine breakthrough infections. This means that even though the risk of breakthrough infections is low, there will be thousands of fully vaccinated people who become

infected and able to infect others, especially with the surging spread of the Delta variant..

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html> Last

Updated Aug. 19, 2021

What About The Booster?

When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Not immediately. The goal is for people to start receiving a COVID-19 booster shot beginning in the fall, with individuals being eligible starting 8 months after they received their [second dose](#) of an mRNA vaccine (either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)). This is subject to authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommendation by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). FDA is conducting an independent evaluation to determine the safety and effectiveness of a booster dose of the mRNA vaccines. ACIP will decide whether to issue a booster dose recommendation based on a thorough review of the evidence.

Who will be the first people to get a booster dose?

If FDA authorizes and ACIP recommends a booster dose, the goal is for the first people eligible for a booster dose to be those who were the first to receive a COVID-19 vaccination (those who are most at risk). This includes healthcare providers, residents of long-term care facilities, and other older adults.

For more Q & A on Booster Vaccines, visit the link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Last Updated Aug. 20, 2021

**If you were confused by something that you heard-
Read this: Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines**

CDC Updated Aug. 18, 2021

How do I know which COVID-19 vaccine information are accurate?



sources

Accurate vaccine information is critical and can help stop common myths and rumors. Learn more about [finding credible vaccine information](#).

stop

Bust Common Myths and Learn the Facts

Do COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips?



No - COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips.

Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines work by



stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies, exactly like it would if you were exposed to the disease. After getting vaccinated, you develop immunity to that disease, without having to get the disease first.

Learn more about the [ingredients](#) in the COVID-19 vaccinations authorized for use in the United States.

Learn more about how [mRNA](#) COVID-19 vaccines work.

Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to be magnetic?

No - Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.

Learn more about the [ingredients](#) in the COVID-19 vaccinations authorized for use in the United States.

Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release any of their components?

No - Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus. mRNA and viral vector vaccines are the two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

Learn more about [mRNA](#) and [viral](#) vaccines.



[vector](#) COVID-19

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes - If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?



No - COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with

your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Learn more about [mRNA](#) and [viral vector](#) COVID-19 vaccines.

Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No - The authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines Do Not cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#). If your body develops an immune response to vaccination, which is the goal, you may test positive on some [antibody tests](#).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

For constantly updated information on COVID-19 and the Delta variant, visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

