



### **What are the status updates for COVID-19 vaccines for children under 12 years old?**

Currently there isn't a vaccine available for those who are 11 and under. Vaccine research teams are conducting studies right now. It is possible that vaccinations could begin by late fall, but this will depend on when the data is ready, what it shows, and when it is submitted to the FDA. After it is submitted, the vaccine has to be authorized or approved by the FDA and recommended by the CDC.

### **For children, should they wear masks outside? If so, will LA County make a recommendation for schools?**

The transmission risk of COVID-19 is much lower outside than inside. It is *strongly recommended* that children wear a mask on playgrounds and in other outdoor spaces where they gather if distancing is not possible or practical. In partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Department of Public Health, a comprehensive guide for schools has been put together and presented to all 80 school districts in LA County. School guidance can be viewed in [this PDF](#). All students 2 and older are required to wear face masks at all times while indoors on school property except while eating, drinking, or carrying out other activities that preclude use of face masks.

### **What is the difference between the 3rd shot and booster shot?**

Sometimes people who are [moderately to severely immunocompromised](#) do not build enough (or any) protection when they first get a vaccination. This appears to be the case for some immunocompromised people and COVID-19 vaccines. CDC recommends moderately to severely immunocompromised people consider receiving an additional (third) dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine ([Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)) at least 28 days after the completion of the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

In contrast, a booster dose refers to another dose of a vaccine that is given to someone who built enough protection after vaccination, but then that protection decreased over time (this is called waning immunity). There are no recommendations for boosters at this time.

### **If people get vaccinated and the vaccines are 99 % effective, why do you need to worry about unvaccinated people?**

A small percent of people who are fully vaccinated are getting infected with the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. These "breakthrough infections" are expected even with highly effective vaccines. Importantly, breakthrough infections usually cause mild disease. If you get vaccinated, your risk of getting infected, having symptomatic disease, and especially of being hospitalized or dying is far lower than if you are not vaccinated. New data suggest that some vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others. While this appears to only be a small part of the spread of the virus, unvaccinated people are at very high risk of getting infected with the very infectious Delta variant.

### **How often is Covid transmitted from one masked, fully-vaccinated person to another fully-vaccinated, masked person when indoors? Outdoors?**

The Delta variant spreads much more easily than previous COVID-19 variants. Transmission is most likely in crowded spaces with poor air flow, especially when people are not wearing masks. Because outdoor spaces





have good air flow, transmission is not as likely outdoors unless the outdoor space is very crowded. Unvaccinated people are much more likely to get infected and to transmit COVID-19 than fully vaccinated people. However, no vaccine is perfect, and it is possible for fully vaccinated people to be infected and to transmit the disease. This is why it is why everyone must wear masks indoors in public places and it is strongly recommended that masks are worn in crowded outdoor events.

**I feel like the "vaccine" has not been around long enough to ensure that there will not be any long term effects. It works now, but what about 5, 10, 20 years from now?**

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose. For this reason, the FDA required each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least two months (eight weeks) after the final dose. Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected. CDC continues to closely monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

**Are gatherings where everyone is vaccinated safe to attend?**

LA County continues to recommend masks when indoors regardless of vaccination. It is strongly recommended that you wear a mask at private indoor social gatherings with people outside your household, unless everyone at the gathering is fully vaccinated. With the increase in post-vaccination infections, we encourage everyone to social distance where possible, wear your masks, and hold gatherings outdoors with good airflow.

**When can the fully-vaccinated get a booster shot? Are those who have been infected with the virus more protected after being fully-vaccinated?**

There are no recommendations for boosters at this time. The FDA is conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose and the ACIP will be issuing recommendations to the CDC for approval after a thorough review of the evidence. LA County is prepared to act after once boosters are authorized and approved.

We do not know yet how long people are protected from re-infection after having had COVID-19. Getting vaccinated boosts immunity for better and longer protection against COVID-19, including more infectious variants of the virus.

**Why do people who have been vaccinated against Covid-19 still spread the disease?**

A small percent of people who are fully vaccinated are getting infected with the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. These "breakthrough infections" are expected even with highly effective vaccines. Importantly, breakthrough infections usually cause mild disease. If you get vaccinated, your risk of getting infected, having symptomatic disease, and especially of being hospitalized or dying is far lower than if you are not vaccinated. New data suggest that some vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others; but this appears to be a small part of the spread of the virus.





**Could you show data about breakthrough infections please? Why is this happening?**

Post Vaccination Infection data can be found on our website [here](#). No vaccine is 100% effective. Breakthrough infections are expected even with highly effective vaccines.

**If vaccinated people can be carriers, why are they not required to quarantine after exposure to a positive case?**

Though vaccinated people can be infected with and transmit COVID-19, it is very unlikely. Fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days after exposure and for 14 days they should take extra precautions including wearing a mask indoors (even around household members) and monitor their health for 14 days.

**How do I protect myself from getting COVID if I already had the two Moderna shots?**

Fully vaccinated persons are at lowest risk of getting infected with COVID-19. They are well protected from getting very sick and dying from COVID-19. A small percent of people who are fully vaccinated are getting infected with the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. These “breakthrough infections” are expected even with highly effective vaccines. Importantly, breakthrough infections usually cause mild symptoms, if any. It is possible for fully vaccinated people to spread the virus to other people.

See COVID-19: Reducing Risk-Keeping Safe & Preventing Spread to learn about what situations are riskier and how to keep safe: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/reducerisk>.

**If I am breastfeeding. Should I still get the vaccine?**

Yes. Experts, including the CDC, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives recommend that people who are breastfeeding be vaccinated against COVID-19. Lactating people were not included in the vaccine studies. However, based on what we know about how these vaccines work, the vaccines are not thought to be a risk for the baby. Recent reports have shown that breastfeeding people who have received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines have antibodies in their breastmilk, which might help to protect their babies. These vaccines do not pass into breastmilk.

**I have a friend who is having heavy periods after getting the vaccine, what is happening?**

Some women have reported a change in their period after getting the vaccine, including heavier flow and painful cramps. We don't yet know if these changes are due to the vaccine - menstrual changes were not reported from the vaccine trials and no study results are available on this issue yet. It is important to remember, many things can cause a change to menstrual cycles such as stress, and changes in sleep, diet, exercise, and some medicines. Irregular periods are very common among teens and may have no specific cause at all.





**Why don't we do what France has done and make being fully vaccinated a requirement in order to go to gyms, restaurants and to use public transportation?**

Public Health supports any business or organization taking steps to require this additional powerful layer of protection.

**What about alternative therapeutics? (Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, the combo of vitamins C, D and the mineral zinc)**

Do not attempt to treat COVID-19 with medications that are not prescribed by a licensed medical provider.

**Should I get the Pfizer booster shot even I originally got the Moderna dosages?**

No. Booster doses are not approved or recommended at this point in time. People who receive an booster dose before it is authorized and approved (i.e. "off-label") dose may not be eligible for compensation under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program after a possible adverse event.

**Do you consider a patient with one dose vaccinated or unvaccinated?**

It depends on the COVID-19 vaccine.

You are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 2 weeks after:

- You got a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, or
- You got a second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or
- You finished the series of a COVID-19 [vaccine](#) that has been listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization [WHO]

