



# COVID-19

## When You've Been Fully Vaccinated

How to Protect Yourself and Others

Updated Oct. 15, 2021

[Print](#)

[COVID-19 vaccines](#) are effective at protecting you from getting sick. Based on [what we know](#) about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can do things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

These recommendations can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated. They are *not* intended for [healthcare settings](#).

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated: <sup>±</sup>

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all [precautions](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may not be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated and have received an additional dose. You should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people until advised otherwise by your healthcare provider.



### COVID-19 County Check

Find community transmission levels by county.

Select a Location

State

County

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## What You Can Do



If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.
  - To reduce the risk of being infected with the Delta variant and possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#).
  - You might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if a

member of your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

- You can travel.
  - If you [travel in the United States](#), you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
  - You need to pay close attention to [the situation at your international destination](#) before traveling outside the United States.
    - You do NOT need to get tested **before** leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.
    - You still need to [show a negative test result](#) or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 **before** boarding an international flight to the United States.
    - You should still get tested 3-5 days **after** international travel.
    - You do NOT need to self-quarantine **after** arriving in the United States.
  - [Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required](#) on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus).
- You should still get tested if you've had [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19 or if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
  - If you've had [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested 5-7 days after your exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. You should also wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.
  - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get [tested](#) and [stay home](#) and away from others.
  - If your test result is positive, isolate at home for 10 days.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.



**About the Delta Variant:** Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that cause COVID-19, including this variant. Vaccines are highly effective against severe illness, but the [Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster](#) than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19. [Learn more about variants in the US.](#)

## What We Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing COVID-19, including severe illness and death.
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective against severe disease and death from variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 currently circulating in the United States, including the Delta variant.
- Infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, even with the Delta variant. When these infections occur among vaccinated people, they tend to be mild.
- If you are fully vaccinated and become infected with the Delta variant, you can spread the virus to others.
- People with weakened immune systems, including people who take immunosuppressive medications, may not be protected even if fully vaccinated.

## What We're Still Learning

- How long COVID-19 vaccines can protect people.

Want to learn more about these recommendations? Read our expanded [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

± This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson [J&J]/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines), and can be applied to COVID-19 vaccines that have been listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (such as AstraZeneca/Oxford). Additionally, this guidance can be applied to clinical trial participants from U.S. sites who received all recommended doses of

a COVID-19 vaccine that is neither approved nor authorized for use by FDA but is listed for emergency use by WHO, or who have received the full series of an “active” (not placebo) COVID-19 vaccine candidate for which vaccine efficacy has been independently confirmed (e.g., by a data and safety monitoring board). Currently, participants in the U.S.-based AstraZeneca and Novavax COVID-19 vaccine trials meet these criteria. These U.S. participants in COVID-19 vaccine trials can be considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they complete the vaccine series, if it has been confirmed that they received “active” vaccine, and not placebo. More information is available at [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#).

## Related Pages

- › [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- › [Science Brief: Background Rationale and Evidence for Public Health Recommendations](#)
- › [Infection Control after Vaccination for Healthcare Workers](#)

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