

Campus Health Services

COVID-19 Vaccination: Dose #1- Patient Education

1. Now that I have received my first dose of vaccine, am I protected from COVID-19?

No. According to the CDC, a second dose of the vaccine is required to provide the best protection against COVID-19.

2. Is it safe for me to stop wearing my mask now?

No. While vaccines are an important tool in managing the pandemic, we must all continue to adhere to safety measures until we achieve herd immunity. This includes:

Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when around others

Stay at least 6 feet from others

Avoid crowds

Avoid indoor spaces with poor ventilation

Wash your hands often

3. What is herd immunity?

Herd immunity occurs when enough people in a community are protected from a disease because they have either been vaccinated against or recovered from it. The WHO and CDC are studying what percentage of the population needs to be vaccinated to stop COVID-19 from spreading.

4. Why is it important to continue wearing masks and physically distancing?

This will help protect others who have not yet been vaccinated and those at higher risk for complications from COVID-19. It will also help speed up the process of returning to our normal activities.

5. Does the vaccine help prevent me from spreading the virus to others?

It is not clear at this time. While the vaccines are safe and effective at protecting you from the virus, more research is being done to see if it also prevents you from spreading it to others.

6. When can I be around my friends and family?

It's important to continue to avoid close contact with others outside your household until more is learned about the protective properties of the vaccine. Check the CDC for updates.

7. Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The approved vaccines do not contain live virus so they cannot give you COVID-19.

8. Could I still get COVID-19 before my second dose of vaccine?

Yes. It's possible that you could have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 prior to getting vaccinated. And because you don't have maximum protection until after your second dose, you could get COVID-19 if you are exposed between doses.

9. What about the new strains of COVID?

We know that viruses mutate including the virus that causes COVID-19. Early indications are that the vaccination is protective against the current known mutations. We want to try to prevent continued spread of the virus so that additional mutations can be stopped before they occur.

10. When will I be protected from COVID-19?

Maximum protection from the vaccine is likely reached **1-2 weeks** after the second shot.