

Breakthrough Infections and Other Shots



I'm fully vaccinated. Can I still be infected with COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing most infections. However, like other vaccines, they are not 100% effective. Some vaccine breakthrough infections are expected.

If I can still get infected, why should I get vaccinated in the first place?

COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting infected, and significantly reduce the likelihood of hospitalization and death for those who do get a breakthrough infection. Statistics from the state Department of Health Services show that in August, Wisconsin residents who were not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 were 3.9 times more likely to test positive for the disease than those fully vaccinated, 8.6 times more likely to be hospitalized for it, and 10.6 times more likely to die from it.

If I'm unlikely to get severely ill, why should I be concerned about breakthrough illnesses, as long as I'm fully vaccinated?

People who get vaccine breakthrough infections may only experience mild—if any—symptoms. However, they can still be contagious and pass the disease to others who aren't protected by a full vaccination, or who are immunocompromised.

Will I need a booster shot?

Booster doses are common for many vaccines. Scientists and medical experts have been closely analyzing data that is beginning to show that protection against COVID-19 infection may decline over time after vaccination. Booster shots were recommended for immunocompromised people in August. As the science and virus evolve, more guidance will be coming on recommendations for booster shots, which will likely vary based on which shot you receive.

I'm fully vaccinated. Do I still need a flu shot?

It is more important than ever to protect against influenza, which, like COVID-19, is a respiratory illness. Vaccination for the flu is critical to help reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses on the general population and lower the resulting burden on the healthcare system.



LEARN MORE

- Visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>
- Questions about COVID-19 vaccines? Call **844-684-1064** (toll-free).
- Visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>