What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccinations & Variants

An AKDN Resource

COVID-19 vaccines are very effective.

They protect you from serious disease, hospitalization, and death, including the highly contagious Delta variant.

It is critical that everyone who is eligible to take the vaccine does so in full doses, as soon as possible. This includes children 12 years of age and older.*

*In countries where the age limit for COVID-19 vaccine eligibility has been lowered to 12 years.

You should take the vaccine that is available in your country.

All vaccines approved by your local health authority are effective in preventing serious disease and death.

This is not the time to choose a preferred vaccine and to wait for it to be made available to you as this may never happen.

You must take all the doses of your vaccine to be fully vaccinated.

In order for a vaccine to be effective, it is important that you complete all the doses that are required.

You're only considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose in a two-dose series, or two weeks after you take a single-dose vaccine.

Vaccines protect you, but not 100%.

Once you are vaccinated, you are largely but not completely protected from the virus.

You could still be infected, suffer mild or moderate symptoms, and, in very rare situations, even require hospitalization.

You can also still carry the virus and infect others, whether or not you have symptoms.

Remember: Wear a mask, practice good hygiene, avoid uncontrolled crowds, as well as public places, and maintain physical distance from people who do not live with you or who may not be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Returning To Your New Normal

If you live in a country or city where there is a high rate of infection and a low vaccination rate, it is very important that you continue to be cautious in how you interact with others.

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective but they are most effective when everyone gets them. Until a large number of people in your community get vaccinated it is important that you follow these safety measures:

- **Do not participate in uncontrolled gatherings** that will put you in contact with people who are not vaccinated or who may be infected with COVID-19.

- **Do not host people in your home** for celebrations and special occasions, especially if they have not been vaccinated.

- **Do not visit people who may not be vaccinated.**

- **Do not plan to travel** to countries with a high rate of COVID-19 infections, particularly the Delta variant. Parts of your country may be at higher risk than others, so do your research and do not put yourself at risk.

- **You may still be required to wear a mask in public places** even if you're vaccinated. Comply with all requirements that your country has implemented to make sure you're doing your part to keep you and your community safe.