

Vaccine Trending Topics

What are “breakthrough” cases?

“Breakthrough cases” refer to people contracting COVID-19 after they have been fully vaccinated. This includes people who are showing symptoms and those who are not.

People are sometimes concerned that the vaccines are not working when they hear about breakthrough cases. This is not the case. No vaccine is 100% protective and breakthrough cases are expected. Importantly, these cases are very rare; only about .01% of fully vaccinated people have become infected. And, over 90% of reported breakthrough cases have been mild or people showed no symptoms at all.¹ Had these people not been vaccinated, many may have become very ill with COVID-19. Vaccines protect people from severe disease.

To ensure continued vaccine effectiveness, the CDC regularly monitors breakthrough cases.²

How long does immunity from coronavirus vaccines last? Do the vaccines protect from variants?

Now that over six months have passed since the clinical trials, evidence is showing that immunity generated by the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines lasts at least six months and possibly longer.³ It is still too early to tell with the Janssen vaccine, but that research is ongoing. In addition, all three vaccines have also shown “real world” effectiveness of approximately 90% or higher in preventing moderate to serious COVID-19 disease.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, reports that all vaccines currently in use in the USA are effective against the five CDC designated variants of concern, including the Delta variant.⁴ Dr. Fauci also notes that vaccines are better at protecting us from COVID-19 and its variants than the immunity provided by previous infection with the disease!⁵ Vaccines save lives.

Are we going to have to get booster shots?

Whether or not a booster shot is needed depends on how long protection from the original vaccine lasts. Many common vaccines, such as for chicken pox; the flu; measles, mumps and rubella, all require boosters.

Dr. Fauci and other experts believe it is possible we may need booster shots in a year or so after our primary vaccination.⁶ Scientists are continuing to study and monitor vaccine effectiveness and vaccine manufacturers are testing booster shots in trials, in case they are needed. One indicator is breakthrough cases. If they start to increase, it is possible we may need boosters.

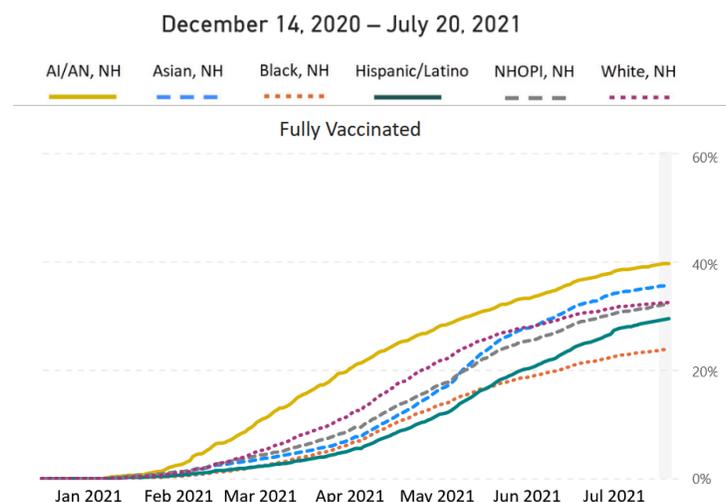
How are we doing? Sharing good news!

The latest statistics from the CDC show that AI/AN have the highest percentage of fully vaccinated people in the US. As of July 20, 2021, 40.2% of AI/AN people are fully vaccinated and 46.6% are partially vaccinated!

Keep up the good work!

*Together we can beat the pandemic; As Indigenous people, we learn from those who came before us and nurture those who come after. We dance, we pray, we share, we adapt, we **protect**.*

Protect yourself and others by being vaccinated!



¹ https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e3.htm?s_cid=mm7021e3_w

² <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-departments/breakthrough-cases.html>

³ <https://www.prevention.com/health/a36014090/how-long-does-covid-19-vaccine-immunity-last/>

⁴ <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/public-health/how-vaccines-stack-up-against-cdc-s-5-variants-of-concern.html>

⁵ <https://www.businessinsider.com/fauci-why-covid-vaccines-work-better-than-natural-infection-alone-2021-5>

⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/19/health/covid-vaccine-booster-anthony-fauci/index.html>