

FAQs – The Ongoing COVID-19 Battle webinar

How do you find out if your first vaccine series did or didn't provide enough immunity?

At present, there is no accurate way to measure the COVID-19 antibodies present in your body to determine if you have enough immunity.

If you have had COVID-19 and then gotten vaccinated, is the chance for myocarditis worse?

There is no evidence that the risk of myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, is worse with vaccination – regardless of whether or not you have already had COVID-19. However, the risk of getting myocarditis is 16 times higher when you are sick with COVID-19.

The number of COVID-19 deaths is 614,531. Are these actual COVID-19 deaths or did some die while happening to have COVID-19?

COVID-19 is only listed as the cause of death if the death was directly related to having a COVID-19 infection.

Of the nearly 385 million COVID-19 vaccinations given, does the total number represent each dose or each two-dose series?

The 385 million COVID-19 vaccinations refer to the total individual doses given.

If you were fully vaccinated before starting a biologic medicine, would you be considered more protected than those who got vaccinated after having taken a biologic for a long time?

Yes, you are considered more protected if you were fully vaccinated before starting a biologic medicine. Though once you are on biologics, your immunity is suppressed so you are still considered at high risk.

Do the third and booster vaccines have the same dose, or amount of medicine, as the first two-dose series?

Yes, the booster and third doses are identical to the first vaccine series given.

Will an annual COVID-19 vaccine ever be needed?

At this time, we do not know if you will need to get an annual COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine series. It seems unlikely that you will need an annual vaccine unless the COVID-19 virus mutates too quickly.

If you received one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine but did not get the second dose within the recommended three to four weeks, do you need to start over?

No, you do not need to start over. It is recommended you go in to get your second dose as soon as possible.

Would you please explain why someone working with COVID-19 patients who is more exposed and, therefore, constantly building immunity would need a booster dose?

You do not build up immunity by being around a COVID-19 patient. You only build immunity from getting sick with COVID-19 or getting the vaccine.

If exposure doesn't build antibodies, what is herd immunity?

You must get sick or get vaccinated against COVID-19 to build up antibodies. Herd immunity occurs when enough people have COVID-19 antibodies, or develop immunity, to not get a COVID-19 infection. This results in the virus having no one to infect and “dying out.”

Have you seen any instances of breakthrough cases with people who have had COVID-19 or been fully vaccinated?

Yes, people infected with COVID-19, like people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, can get the infection again. The good thing is that most people who get COVID-19 a second time do not get as sick nor require hospitalization. The people with the most protection are those who have had COVID-19 infection and been vaccinated.

If someone has been on antibiotics for several months, will this affect their COVID-19 vaccination?

No, taking antibiotics does not change the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

How at risk are those who take daily inhaled steroids to control asthma?

People who need daily steroids to control their asthma are at high risk of serious complications from COVID-19 infection.

How long does it take for symptoms to develop after exposure to COVID-19?

Symptoms often occur five days after exposure but can occur as early as two days after exposure and as late as 14 days after exposure.

Guidance currently indicated that fully vaccinated people should get tested three to five days following a COVID-19 exposure. What happens if the test comes back positive?

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must take off work for at least 10 days. That person can return to work once meeting return-to-work criteria.

Why do you think people in the medical field are not getting or do not support the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vast majority of physicians, medical providers and nurses are already vaccinated.

When companies are having their employees get vaccinated, are they then liable for any adverse reactions that may occur?

Any illness that might be work-related should be filed as a possible workers' compensation case. Workers' compensation insurance will determine if it is work-related and compensable. Even if you are already offered sick time, a company may choose to provide four hours off work with pay to encourage vaccination.

Who will need to have a written COVID-19 plan and mandate getting the vaccine or weekly testing?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not released the details of the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). It is anticipated that it will require a COVID-19 plan, vaccine mandate and weekly testing of the unvaccinated for companies with more than 100 employees in the United States. Once the ETS is released, companies will know what is required.

Once the vaccine is mandated, will religious and medical exemptions be required?

Yes, mandates must allow for religious and medical exemptions. However, all the unvaccinated, even with an exemption or having had a previous COVID-19 infection, will need weekly COVID-19 testing.

Since you have already stated it's proven that vaccinated people can contract COVID-19 and spread it, why aren't you suggesting that vaccinated people also receive weekly testing?

Those who are vaccinated are much less likely to get infected, and if they do get infected, they are much less contagious than those who have not been vaccinated.

Do you have a PowerPoint that we could show to our employees to help encourage them to get vaccinated?

Yes, I have PowerPoint presentations that I could provide to any employers to help encourage vaccination. Vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19. It is much better than weekly testing. The more employees you get vaccinated, the fewer employees you will have to test weekly and the safer your workforce will be. If you want a copy, please contact me at joel.blanchard@sanfordhealth.org or (701) 323-2412.