

# 4 Reasons to Mask Up After a COVID-19 Vaccine

Getting a vaccine goes a long way toward protecting yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19. But there are still some good reasons for continuing to wear a mask even after you've been vaccinated.



## #1



### Full Protection Takes Time

It takes about two weeks for the immune system to make the antibodies that block viral infections. Full 95% protection doesn't happen until 1-2 weeks after the 2nd dose. And, even with two doses of the vaccine, a small proportion of people are still vulnerable to the disease.

## #2



### To Prevent Unknowingly Spreading COVID-19

While we know COVID-19 vaccines prevent illness, researchers need more time to learn whether they prevent you from spreading the virus as well. Wearing a mask keeps you from unknowingly spreading COVID-19 to others.

## #3



### Protect Those Not Vaccinated

Many have not yet received the vaccination or are not yet fully vaccinated. In addition, people with conditions that suppress the immune systems are at particular risk from COVID-19 and scientists don't know how they will respond to the vaccines. Studies with other vaccines indicate their bodies may not be able to respond as well as healthy patients, and therefore, the vaccines may not offer them the same level of protection as they do others.

## #4



### Reduce the Strain on the Healthcare System

The U.S. healthcare system is seriously strained and, globally new mutations of COVID-19 are being discovered. These variants seem to spread more easily than others, which may lead to more cases. While it is believed that the current vaccines will offer some amount of protection against the new strains, there is a lot we still don't know. A mask will offer additional protection against unknown strains.

## Continue to Protect Yourself and Others

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



## Tips for Mask Protection

- Ensure mask fits snugly around the nose and chin.
- Masks should be made with tightly woven fabric.
- Masks should have 2-3 layers.



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Sources:

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