I’m Fully Vaccinated, Now What?

Fully vaccinated means your body has built up protection after the vaccination, which may take up to 14 days or more after your last dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. See below for some common questions answered after COVID-19 vaccination.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have gotten all my specific vaccine doses?
Yes. While available COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated to be very effective at preventing severe and/or symptomatic COVID-19, there is currently limited information on how much the vaccines might reduce transmission or how long the protection lasts. We are also still learning about virus variants. Everyone should keep using all the tools we have to help slow the spread as the COVID-19 vaccines are still being rolled out.

How long does protection from a COVID-19 vaccine last?
It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. It should take up to 14 days after your last dose for you to be fully protected. Based on available data, the COVID-19 vaccine provides strong protection for at least three months, including against severe illness if you get sick. Research over time will confirm how long the protection lasts, and additional doses may be needed in the future to boost protection.

What activities are safer to do after I am vaccinated?
The safest actions for you right now are those allowed under State and local public health guidance. Even though your risk for developing COVID-19 is reduced, the people around you may not have been vaccinated and are still at risk. Additionally, more is still being learned about the virus variants and how well the vaccine works against them. The goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 for everyone and to Be COVIDSafe.

My friends and family are all fully vaccinated. Do we still follow COVID-19 guidance?
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fully vaccinated people can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors and visit unvaccinated people from a single household at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks or physical distancing. You can also refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic.

What can we expect if we continue to Be COVIDSafe after vaccination?
As we continue to Be COVIDSafe, we should see a drop in COVID-19 cases, ICUs, hospitalizations, outbreaks, and deaths. If this drop keeps going down in the right direction, more businesses and locations can reopen, more families can be together in person, and more individuals can travel without the stress and limits of a global pandemic. Things may not return to the routine before COVID-19, but the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines offers the best way to move forward.

Are you ready to get back to the people and activities you love? Take action and encourage others to get vaccinated now.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit: coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine