I’m Fully Vaccinated, Now What?

Fully vaccinated means your body has built up protection after 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 if I have gotten all my specific vaccine doses?
Regardless of vaccination status, all persons are required to wear masks on public transit, indoors in K-12 schools or childcare, emergency shelters and cooling centers, healthcare settings, state and local correctional facilities and detention centers, homeless shelters, long term care settings, and adult and senior care facilities. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that all fully vaccinated persons also wear a mask in indoor public settings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. CDPH face covering guidance requires masks indoor for all unvaccinated persons outside their residence.

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—including the need for an additional dose or booster dose for certain eligible groups. More information about future eligible groups will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

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 resume activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Meaning, you can travel in the United States with less restrictions or choose to wear a mask to protect yourself and others to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Remember, wearing a mask also protects those with a weakened immune system or at increased risk of severe disease. You should still get tested if you’ve had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

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