

# I've Been Vaccinated, Now What?

**Do I have immunity right away?** It takes about two weeks after getting vaccinated (either with the 1-dose vaccination or after the second dose of the 2-dose vaccination) for your body to build up sufficient protection against COVID-19 to help protect you from getting sick. There is still a small chance that you could get infected and become sick even after being vaccinated. The risk of this is greater when there are high levels of COVID-19 disease spread in the community. This risk will come down as more people are vaccinated and we see less COVID-19 disease in the community.

**Could I still get COVID?** While the evidence shows the available vaccines are safe and effective at preventing you from getting sick with COVID-19, we do not have enough information yet to know whether someone who was vaccinated can still get infected and, without developing symptoms, spread COVID-19 to others. Additionally, we are still learning about how well the vaccine works among people who have a weakened immune system.

**Do I still have to wear a mask?** To get COVID-19 under control, in addition to getting vaccinated, everyone should continue to wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, wash their hands, and get tested for COVID-19 when needed. It is important to continue to follow public health guidance to reduce the spread of COVID even after you have been vaccinated.

On 3.8.21 the CDC said fully vaccinated Americans can gather with other vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask or social distancing. The recommendations also say that vaccinated people can come together in the same way — in a single household — with people considered at low-risk for severe disease, such as in the case of vaccinated grandparents visiting healthy children and grandchildren.

**Am I exempt from mask mandates in public because I've been vaccinated?** The CDC states that it is important to continue to follow all public health guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 even after you have been vaccinated. Also, remember, Minnesota still has a face covering requirement. This means there are some places where you are required to wear a face covering and these do not have exemptions for vaccinated people.



# Mille Lacs Health System