



5 REASONS TO WEAR A MASK EVEN AFTER YOU'RE VACCINATED

Masks and distancing will need to continue into the foreseeable future.



1

No vaccine is 100% effective.

A small percentage of people are not protected after vaccination and for others the protection may wane over time. Large clinical trials found that two doses of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines prevented 95% of illnesses caused by the coronavirus. While those results are impressive, 1 in 20 people are left unprotected.

2

Vaccines don't provide immediate protection.

No vaccine is effective right away. It takes about two weeks for the immune system to make the antibodies that block viral infections. Covid vaccines will take a little longer than other inoculations, such as the flu shot, because both the Moderna and Pfizer products require two doses.

3

Covid vaccines may not prevent you from spreading the virus.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will probably prevent you from getting sick with Covid but more evidence is needed about whether vaccinated people can still spread the virus. Until researchers can answer that question, wearing masks is the safest way for vaccinated people to protect those around them.

4

Masks protect people with compromised immune systems.

Although the vaccines appear safe, prior studies with other vaccines raise concerns that immunosuppressed patients, including cancer patients, may not mount as great an immune response as healthy patients. For now, we should assume that patients with cancer may not experience the 95% efficacy.

5

Masks protect against any strain of the coronavirus

So far, studies suggest vaccines will still work against these new strains. One thing is clear: Public health measures — such as avoiding crowds, physical distancing and masks — reduce the risk of contracting all strains of the coronavirus.

Please visit www.nitha.com for additional resources.

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