



EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VACCINE DID YOU KNOW?

Will the vaccine STOP the pandemic? Can vaccinated people still transmit COVID-19?

While a vaccine will help protect individual patients and those around them, **a large proportion of the population must be vaccinated before transmission is greatly reduced.** Vaccinating whole populations will take several months.

So far, we know that the vaccine is very effective at preventing symptomatic cases of COVID-19. We do not yet have data to indicate whether the vaccine prevents asymptomatic COVID-19. It may be that vaccinated people can still get asymptomatic COVID-19 and pass it to others. **Because of this, vaccinated persons are NOT exempt from quarantine e.g. if they have close contact with a positive case.**

It is very important that the public health measures currently in place to reduce COVID-19 transmission continue to be followed even after the vaccine becomes available, as COVID-19 will remain a continuing concern. Social distancing, limiting the size of gatherings, and wearing masks, will still be needed for at least several more months, and possibly longer before these measures can start to be eased gradually.

What percentage of the population needs to get vaccinated to achieve HERD IMMUNITY?

Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection—either from previous infection or vaccination—to make it unlikely for the disease to continue to spread among the population. As a result, a community is protected even if a small number of people do not have any protection themselves (for example, those who cannot take the vaccine for medical reasons). **The percentage of people needed to be immune to obtain herd immunity for COVID-19 is estimated to be 70 to 75%.**

UNHCR Malta is not the official source of this information. UNHCR Malta has translated this information to make it available to you in a language you understand, and to share it among refugees and asylum seekers in Malta.

For more translated information on the COVID-19 Vaccine please visit <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/news/covid-19-information-for-malta>.

Source: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate, Malta

For more information, please visit <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/vaccines.aspx>. This website is regularly updated as needed.