

## **FAQs – The Ongoing COVID-19 Battle webinar**

### **How do you find out if your first vaccine series did or didn't provide enough immunity?**

At present, there is no accurate way to measure the COVID-19 antibodies present in your body to determine if you have enough immunity.

### **If you have had COVID-19 and then gotten vaccinated, is the chance for myocarditis worse?**

There is no evidence that the risk of myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, is worse with vaccination – regardless of whether or not you have already had COVID-19. However, the risk of getting myocarditis is 16 times higher when you are sick with COVID-19.

### **The number of COVID-19 deaths is 614,531. Are these actual COVID-19 deaths or did some die while happening to have COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is only listed as the cause of death if the death was directly related to having a COVID-19 infection.

### **Of the nearly 385 million COVID-19 vaccinations given, does the total number represent each dose or each two-dose series?**

The 385 million COVID-19 vaccinations refer to the total individual doses given.

### **If you were fully vaccinated before starting a biologic medicine, would you be considered more protected than those who got vaccinated after having taken a biologic for a long time?**

Yes, you are considered more protected if you were fully vaccinated before starting a biologic medicine. Though once you are on biologics, your immunity is suppressed so you are still considered at high risk.

### **Do the third and booster vaccines have the same dose, or amount of medicine, as the first two-dose series?**

Yes, the booster and third doses are identical to the first vaccine series given.

### **Will an annual COVID-19 vaccine ever be needed?**

At this time, we do not know if you will need to get an annual COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine series. It seems unlikely that you will need an annual vaccine unless the COVID-19 virus mutates too quickly.

### **If you received one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine but did not get the second dose within the recommended three to four weeks, do you need to start over?**

No, you do not need to start over. It is recommended you go in to get your second dose as soon as possible.

### **Would you please explain why someone working with COVID-19 patients who is more exposed and, therefore, constantly building immunity would need a booster dose?**

You do not build up immunity by being around a COVID-19 patient. You only build immunity from getting sick with COVID-19 or getting the vaccine.

### **If exposure doesn't build antibodies, what is herd immunity?**

You must get sick or get vaccinated against COVID-19 to build up antibodies. Herd immunity occurs when enough people have COVID-19 antibodies, or develop immunity, to not get a COVID-19 infection. This results in the virus having no one to infect and “dying out.”

**Have you seen any instances of breakthrough cases with people who have had COVID-19 or been fully vaccinated?**

Yes, people infected with COVID-19, like people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, can get the infection again. The good thing is that most people who get COVID-19 a second time do not get as sick nor require hospitalization. The people with the most protection are those who have had COVID-19 infection and been vaccinated.

**If someone has been on antibiotics for several months, will this affect their COVID-19 vaccination?**

No, taking antibiotics does not change the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**How at risk are those who take daily inhaled steroids to control asthma?**

People who need daily steroids to control their asthma are at high risk of serious complications from COVID-19 infection.

**How long does it take for symptoms to develop after exposure to COVID-19?**

Symptoms often occur five days after exposure but can occur as early as two days after exposure and as late as 14 days after exposure.

**Guidance currently indicated that fully vaccinated people should get tested three to five days following a COVID-19 exposure. What happens if the test comes back positive?**

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must take off work for at least 10 days. That person can return to work once meeting return-to-work criteria.

**Why do you think people in the medical field are not getting or do not support the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The vast majority of physicians, medical providers and nurses are already vaccinated.

**When companies are having their employees get vaccinated, are they then liable for any adverse reactions that may occur?**

Any illness that might be work-related should be filed as a possible workers' compensation case. Workers' compensation insurance will determine if it is work-related and compensable. Even if you are already offered sick time, a company may choose to provide four hours off work with pay to encourage vaccination.

**Who will need to have a written COVID-19 plan and mandate getting the vaccine or weekly testing?**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not released the details of the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). It is anticipated that it will require a COVID-19 plan, vaccine mandate and weekly testing of the unvaccinated for companies with more than 100 employees in the United States. Once the ETS is released, companies will know what is required.

**Once the vaccine is mandated, will religious and medical exemptions be required?**

Yes, mandates must allow for religious and medical exemptions. However, all the unvaccinated, even with an exemption or having had a previous COVID-19 infection, will need weekly COVID-19 testing.

**Since you have already stated it's proven that vaccinated people can contract COVID-19 and spread it, why aren't you suggesting that vaccinated people also receive weekly testing?**

Those who are vaccinated are much less likely to get infected, and if they do get infected, they are much less contagious than those who have not been vaccinated.

**Do you have a PowerPoint that we could show to our employees to help encourage them to get vaccinated?**

Yes, I have PowerPoint presentations that I could provide to any employers to help encourage vaccination. Vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19. It is much better than weekly testing. The more employees you get vaccinated, the fewer employees you will have to test weekly and the safer your workforce will be. If you want a copy, please contact me at [joel.blanchard@sanfordhealth.org](mailto:joel.blanchard@sanfordhealth.org) or (701) 323-2412.