

IS INFECTION-ACQUIRED IMMUNITY BETTER THAN VACCINE IN KEEPING US SAFE FROM COVID-19?



VACCINATION

- Causes a more predictable immune response than infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Gives most people a high level of protection against COVID-19.
- Can provide added protection for people who already had COVID-19.
- One study showed that, for people who already had COVID-19, those who do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more than twice as likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get fully vaccinated after their recovery.
- A safe approach to building immune protection without the risk of infection.
- Protects those around you, particularly those at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

INFECTION-ACQUIRED IMMUNITY

also called natural immunity or getting sick with COVID-19

- Offers some protection from future illness. This level may vary depending on how mild or severe the illness was, the time since infection, and the person's age.
- No currently available tests can reliably determine if someone is protected after a COVID-19 infection.
- Can cause severe illness or death and a higher likelihood of hospitalization.
- Can spread to others.
- Can result in long-term health issues.
- A large percentage of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Once hospitalized with COVID-19, it is often too late to receive the vaccine.