

COVID-19: So how does the vaccine inform our next steps? 3/11/21 **(and other “why can’t we just throw open the sanctuary” questions)**

- **A vaccination is not a magic cape**
 - Even 95% efficacy means that statistically 19 out of 20 people are effectively covered by the vaccine but 1 in 20 is not
 - Vaccines are less effective against variants
 - Being vaccinated means it's unlikely YOU will become seriously ill, but there is still a chance you can catch a variant and/or be infectious (be a virus carrier)
- **CDC recommends that masks and distancing remain in effect** until the average number of new cases in the US drops below 10,000/day – the last time that happened was March 2020. We are currently at 70,000 new cases per day.
- Herd immunity is defined as 70-90% of the entire population vaccinated (not just your congregation)
 - 20% of the population is below 18 and therefore not eligible for vaccination yet (current vaccines are for 16 and above)
 - Statistically that means even if all who are eligible are vaccinated, >25% is not covered until vaccines are approved for 4 and above
 - Herd immunity won't really come until 2022
- Latest CDC records for vaccinated individuals:
 - Individuals who are fully vaccinated (at least two weeks past last shot) may safely gather unmasked **but only with family and small groups who are in low risk categories**
 - Fully vaccinated people must still wear masks, socially distance and avoid larger gatherings in a public setting

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