

COVID Queries: Delta breakthrough infections

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Q: Even people who have been vaccinated are getting sick with the delta variant, so why should I bother getting the shot?

A: COVID-19 vaccines remain the [best defense](#) against COVID-19. By and large, it's the patients who have not been vaccinated who are getting the most severe disease from the delta variant.

"There isn't a [vaccine](#) that is 100% effective at preventing illness," says Martin Herrmann, M.D., medical director of Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca and New Prague. "Breakthrough cases of COVID-19 are going to happen, but the percentage is small. Also, the disease in vaccinated people tends to be much less severe than the diseases in unvaccinated people."

These breakthrough hospitalizations tend to happen in people with weaker immune systems who might not have the same lasting protection from the vaccine.

The [delta variant](#) surge is far from behind us and is likely to continue to accelerate, particularly in communities with lower rates of vaccination. Going into the fall and winter, it will be difficult to predict exactly what's going to happen with the virus, including the emergence of additional variants.

The best chance of avoiding another wave of the virus is for as many people as possible to get vaccinated.

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