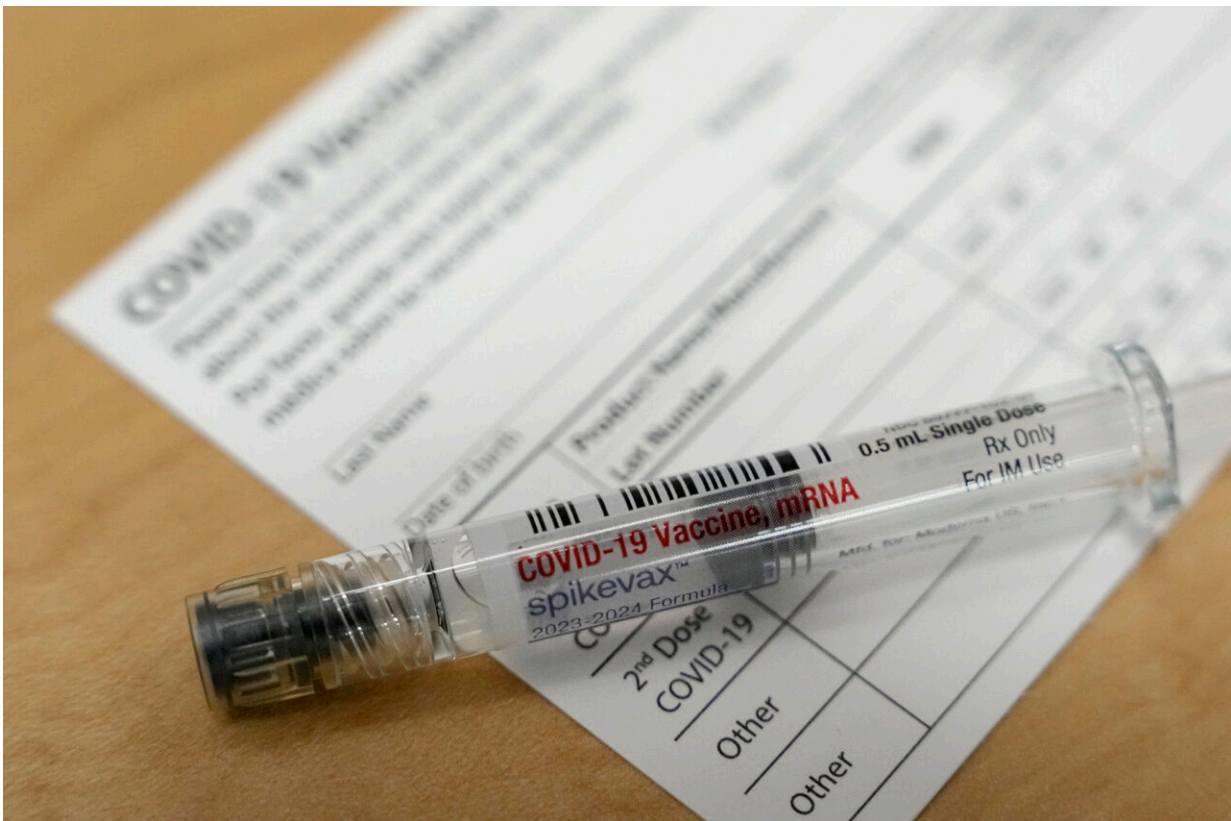


Newest COVID shots are 54% effective in preventing symptoms, CDC finds

February 1 2024, by Mike Stobbe



A Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine is seen at a drugstore in Cypress, Texas, Sept. 20, 2023. On Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the updated COVID-19 vaccine was 54% effective at preventing symptomatic infection in adults. The shot became available last year as a replacement vaccine designed to better protects against more recent COVID variants. Credit: Melissa Phillip/Houston Chronicle via AP, File

The latest versions of COVID-19 vaccines were 54% effective at preventing symptomatic infection in adults, according to the first U.S. study to assess how well the shots work.

The shots became available last year and were designed to better protect against more recent coronavirus variants.

In Thursday's study, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention looked at 9,000 people who got tested for COVID-19 at CVS and Walgreens pharmacies, checking who tested positive and whether they had gotten a new shot or not.

The 54% finding is similar to what's been reported in other countries, and it's also about what was reported for an earlier vaccine version, said Ruth Link-Gelles of the CDC, the study's lead author.

Studies coming out later this year will assess how effective the shot was at preventing [symptoms](#) severe enough to send patients to a doctor's office or hospital, she said.

The CDC recommends the new shots for everyone 6 months and older, but most Americans haven't gotten them. The latest CDC data suggests only about 22% of U.S. [adults](#) have gotten the shots, and only 11% of children. The slow uptake meant that it took longer for researchers to gather enough data to assess how well the shots work, Link-Gelles said.

© 2024 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Newest COVID shots are 54% effective in preventing symptoms, CDC finds (2024, February 1) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-02-covid-shots-effective-symptoms-cdc.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.