

Common questions related to the **COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT**

What is the delta variant?

As the COVID-19 virus gets passed from person to person during the pandemic, it can mutate and become a new variant of the virus. The delta variant has some features that make it easier to spread from person to person than other variants were. This happens mainly because infected people make more virus particles. The delta variant of COVID-19 also seems to cause more severe symptoms than other variants do.

Who is the most at risk from the delta variant?

Anyone who is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated is the most at risk from any COVID-19 variant, including the delta variant. If you have not had any doses of the vaccine, then getting your first dose will provide some protection. You should make sure to get both doses to provide the best protection.

Is the delta variant more dangerous to those who become infected?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been very effective against COVID-19. While the vaccine effectiveness might be slightly lower against infection with the delta variant, they still work very well at preventing people from getting seriously ill, and extremely well at preventing people from being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.

I recently tested positive for COVID-19. How do I know if I have the delta variant?

COVID-19 tests only tell you if you have the virus. They can't tell you if it's the delta variant. Some samples will go for further testing to figure out how much of the delta variant there is in Florida, but that is not reported back to individuals.

I heard the delta variant is much more transmissible. What does that mean?

The delta variant is much better at infecting people than earlier variants were, and people who are infected make a lot more of the virus and can easily infect other people. It's estimated that people who are infected with the delta variant can shed up to 1,000 times more virus than people who are infected with other COVID-19 variants.

SOURCE: UF HEALTH and the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION LEARN MORE AT SCCAHS.ORG/COVID-19-VACCINE



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Do masks work against the delta variant?

Yes, masks are still very helpful in preventing COVID-19 infection, even with the delta variant. Getting vaccinated and wearing a mask are the two best ways to stop the disease from spreading. Remember to make sure that your mask fits well and wear it whenever you are with people who are not part of your household. Double masking, or wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask, can give you better protection than wearing only one mask.

I'm not vaccinated but I had COVID-19 in the spring. Can I still get infected with the delta variant?

Anyone who is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated is the most at risk from any COVID-19 variant, including the delta variant. If you have not had any doses of the vaccine, then getting your first dose will provide some protection. You should make sure to get both doses to provide the best protection.

I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Can I still get infected?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been very effective against COVID-19. While the vaccine effectiveness might be slightly lower against infection with the delta variant, they still work very well at preventing people from getting sick, and extremely well at preventing people from being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.

I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19 but I have some symptoms. What should I do?

Even if you are fully vaccinated, you should get tested for COVID-19 if you develop symptoms. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may get infected, but they will be very unlikely to be hospitalized or to die from it. Even if your symptoms are mild, it's important to get tested so that you don't give COVID-19 to others if you're infected.



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