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**From:** ^General Delivery  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:34 PM  
**Subject:** Natural Immunity Versus Vaccine Immunity

## THE HANFORD SITE

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May 20, 2021

**TO:** All Hanford Site Employees  
**FROM:** HPMC Occupational Medical Services

**SUBJECT: Natural Immunity Versus Vaccine Immunity**

**\*\*PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT ON COMPUTERS\*\***

**Question: If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need a COVID-19 vaccine?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people should be vaccinated regardless of whether they have had COVID-19. While several studies have been completed, experts do not yet understand how long immunity could last, or how variants may impact that immunity. While rare, there have been reported cases of people contracting the virus more than once. Learn more about why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Fortunately, more information is emerging each day. There have been multiple studies recently published which address this concern. The CDC website provides links to many medical studies regarding the COVID-19 disease, and will continue to post this information as new evidence becomes available.

A recent investigation conducted at U.C. Irvine has potentially settled the debate on whether immunity from vaccination is more beneficial than that acquired from natural immunity (i.e., recovery from actual infection). "The level and breadth of protection induced by mRNA vaccines is much greater than that induced by natural infection," Dr. Philip L. Felgner, Director of U.C. Irvine's Vaccine and Research and Development Center. Some studies have found antibody levels as much as 10 times higher in vaccinated individuals compared to antibody levels found in the plasma from people who recovered from natural infection. ([52626935 \(biorxiv.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.14.2626935))

**Reminder: If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.**

Additional Resources:

- [COVID-19 vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 infection](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits](#)
- [Interim Estimates of Vaccine Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines Among Health Care Personnel — 33 U.S. Sites, January–March 2021](#)

