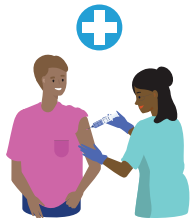# Community Immunity

If enough people in Los Angeles County get the COVID-19 vaccine, we can reach community immunity. This will not only protect you, but also your family, friends, and neighbors!

What is community immunity and why is it important?

Community immunity, also known as herd immunity, is when enough people in an area become immune to an infectious disease, making it harder for the infection to spread from person to person. Because of this, the whole community becomes protected – not just the people who are immune. It is how we stopped the spread of diseases like polio and measles. Community immunity is important because it protects people who cannot be vaccinated, like babies and young children. It also helps people who may not respond as well to a vaccine, like those with weak immune systems.

How do we achieve it?

Community immunity happens when enough people get vaccinated and/or when enough people get and recover from the infection and build an immune response (natural immunity). The percent of a population that needs to be immune in order to reach community immunity depends on how easily the disease spreads from person to person. It is typically about 70% to 90% of the population.

For COVID-19, we can't rely on natural immunity because:

• More people could get sick or die before community immunity is reached.

• Any delays increase the chance of new COVID-19 variants spreading quickly and taking hold.

• Natural immunity may not last long enough or be strong enough, and people could get infected again.

Getting vaccinated is the quickest way to protect LA County!

When enough people are vaccinated against COVID-19, the virus can't spread as easily from person to person — this means our entire community is less likely to get COVID-19. If by chance one person does get sick, there's less of a risk of COVID-19 spreading if there aren't enough people for it to infect, making the disease rare.

Do your part - get vaccinated as soon as possible!

• Vaccination is a safer way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.

• COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

• Getting the vaccine will help keep you and your loved ones safe from getting sick, missing work, ending up in the hospital, or dying.

Visit **www.VaccinateLACounty.com** for more information or call **833-540-0473** between 8:00 am and 8:30 pm 7 days a week for assistance with appointments.

VaccinateLACounty.com

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health