

Individuals who are fully vaccinated and up to date on boosters have the best protection against COVID-19. Getting sick with COVID-19 may offer some protection from future illness, sometimes called “natural immunity,” but the level of protection people get from having COVID-19 may vary greatly depending on how mild or severe their illness was, the time since their infection, and their age.

The FDA has evaluated the currently available data from our international partners and vaccine manufacturers, which suggest that a single booster dose following the completion of a primary vaccination provides further protection. Additional CDC data further indicate that COVID-19 vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity alone and that vaccines, even after prior infection, help prevent reinfections. Data also suggest that, for people who already had COVID-19, those who do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more than 2 times as likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get fully vaccinated after their recovery.

Getting vaccinated or receiving a booster with one of the currently available vaccines is the best thing Americans can do right now, in addition to standard precautions like wearing a mask, to help protect themselves and their families.