

## COVID-19: What about the Delta Variant?

### Description

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With [the Delta variant causing about half of new infections](#), should you do anything differently?

Should you rush to get vaccinated if you haven't already? Or feel secure if you are vaccinated? Research "suggests that most vaccines still provide good protection against it—and remain highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths."

Vaccinated people probably have antibodies that work against variants, but are we seeing antibody-dependent enhancement of disease, [as occurred in animals vaccinated](#) against SARS-CoV-1 a decade ago? Because of this, the vaccine was not used in humans.

This table shows [that vaccinated people with Delta variant disease were six times more likely to die](#) than unvaccinated people, according to figures from Public Health England.

Table 6. Attendance to emergency care and deaths by vaccination status among Delta confirmed cases (sequencing and genotyping) in England, 1 February 2021 to 7 June 2021.

	Total	Cases with specimen date in past 28 days*	Unlinked	Unvaccinated	<21 days post dose 1	≥21 days post dose 1	≥14 days post dose 2
Delta cases since 1 Feb 2021 †	33,206	28,738	4,289	19,573	2,166	5,393	1,785
Cases with an A&E visit‡ (excluding cases with the same specimen and attendance dates)†	851	NA	11	567	59	163	51
Cases with an A&E visit‡ (including cases with the same specimen and attendance dates)	1,234	NA	16	825	90	220	83
Cases where presentation to A&E resulted in overnight inpatient admission§ (excluding cases with the same specimen and admission dates)†	223	NA	3	146	9	45	20
Cases where presentation to A&E resulted in overnight inpatient admission§ (including cases with the same specimen and admission dates)	383	NA	4	251	20	66	42
Deaths*	42	NA	0	23	0	7	12
				0,11%		0,13%	0,67%

0,12%

Data sources: Emergency care attendance and admissions from Emergency Care Dataset (ECDS); †, ‡, §, ¶, and \* are daily death data series (deaths within 28 days)

<https://twitter.com/robinmonotti2/status/1405868364963139588>

The [bar graph shows the number of deaths](#) in red and cases in black, by vaccination status. Here, the death rate is 8.5 times higher in those with two doses of vaccine than in those who have received none.

<https://twitter.com/RealJoelSmalley/status/1411080854634479616?s=20>

The Delta strain appears to have originated in India. In Delhi, the strategy is to treat with ivermectin; in London, to vaccinate. [The graph below compares the results](#). Between June 1 and June 14, per capita cases in Delhi decreased 77%, and in London increased 206%.

<https://twitter.com/jjchamie/status/1406311803810889730>

Viruses mutate. It is their nature. Do vaccines select out mutants, as antibiotics do? Possibly. The COVID jabs, unlike traditional vaccines, induce a very narrow range of immunity, to the spike protein that the vaccinee's body makes. Drugs such as ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine do not depend on such a specific viral protein.

There are many things to consider in making your personal risk: benefit assessment, and many unknowns.