

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

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So there's a lot of different concerns individuals have about the vaccine, one of them seems to be,

What is herd immunity?

08:08

We've heard a lot about herd immunity in two different settings. One is in the setting before the vaccine of is it possible that herd immunity would get us out of this problem. What herd immunity means is that we know for most infections, once about 70% of the population has antibodies to an infectious disease, that infectious disease dies out. The virus just can't find enough people to infect when 70% of the whole population has antibodies. Now when people suggested we would get out of COVID-19 through herd immunity, that was a huge mistake. Because if we waited for 70% of everybody in the country, to have antibodies to COVID-19, the number of deaths would be staggering. The number of deaths in Lubbock would be 1000s. But when we talk about the vaccine, we're talking about herd immunity in a different way. Now we're talking about giving enough people that see that 70% develop antibody, and then we know that COVID-19 will essentially be over if 70% of everybody has antibodies. Now a lot of this depends on the effectiveness of the vaccine. But the great news is that the vaccine is 90% effective. So if 80% of the population were to get the vaccine and it was 90% effective, then more than 70% of everyone would have antibody and then we would predict that the covid 19 pandemic within the in this country if we had that high a vaccination rate, so that would be developing herd immunity through the vaccine.

Will the vaccine lessen symptoms if you still contract COVID-19?

10:16

Some years influenza vaccine is only 50% or 40% effective in preventing the infection, but then when you follow the individuals who got influenza vaccine, their disease is much more mild than someone who didn't get the vaccine. And it looks like that's going to be the case with the COVID 19 vaccine as well. So it's another important reason to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but we're hoping that it will prevent infection in the great majority of cases. But even in those who do become infected, they should have a much milder course.