

Can societies still be safe, if vaccines are taken by some while others rely on herd immunity?

Herd immunity is achieved when enough people in the population have developed immunity to a disease – either by being vaccinated or by acquiring natural immunity, to prevent the disease from spreading.

The percentage needed for herd immunity varies with different vaccines, for example to prevent the spread of measles, **95%** of people must be vaccinated with two doses of the MMR vaccine. However, this percentage is lower for other viruses, such as influenza.

We don't know yet what proportion of people would need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to prevent the spread of infection. **The best way to make sure you are protected is to have one of the approved vaccines.** It will take time to vaccinate everyone which is why it is important to prioritise those most at risk first and give more people one dose.

