

CDC: New study continues to show COVID-19 mRNA vaccines effectiveness; Marshfield Clinic Research Institute serves as primary lab in study

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New CDC study continues to show COVID-19 mRNA vaccines effectiveness; Marshfield Clinic Research Institute serves as primary lab in study

Participants also found to shed the virus for a shorter duration, had reduced fevers and were sicker for a shorter time

MARSHFIELD - A follow-up analysis of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines showed they continue to be highly effective, and vaccinated individuals who did get COVID-19 had less detectable virus and were sick for a significantly shorter time with significantly reduced symptoms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-led study [pre-printed in MedRxiv](#) and due for publication in the New England Journal of Medicine on June 30 shows mRNA vaccines to be 91% effective after the second dose against SARS-CoV-2, and 81% after the first dose. These results follow [a CDC report published in March](#) that showed mRNA vaccines to be 90% effective after the second dose against SARS-CoV-2, and 80% after the first dose.

The study showed the COVID-19 vaccines were highly effective among working-age adults in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infections when administered in real-world conditions, said Jennifer Meece, Ph.D., Director of Marshfield Clinic Research Institute's Integrated Research and Development Laboratory. The Research Institute, the research division of Marshfield Clinic Health System, was the sole reference laboratory in the nation to support the studies.

"Study participants also were found to have shed the virus for a shorter duration, had reduced fevers and were sicker for a shorter time," Meece said. "They also were found to be less likely to spread the virus to others, highlighting how the vaccine continues to improve the health and wellbeing of those being vaccinated and those who are in contact with the vaccinated. In contrast, unvaccinated individuals were sick longer, and shed significantly more virus for longer periods of time, making them a risk to those around them."

The Research Institute received a [\\$22.5 million CDC grant](#) in July 2020 to play a leading role in a number of COVID-19 studies across the U.S. The Research Institute tested 3,975 samples each week for 17 consecutive weeks from health care personnel, first responders and other frontline and essential workers from across the U.S. The study demonstrated in real world conditions the effectiveness of mRNA vaccines in both symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19.

The Research Institute's role in the study was testing the specimens, which came from participants who self-swabbed and mailed them to Marshfield. Meece and

senior research associates at the Lab, Lynn Ivacic and Elisha Stefanski, were among the authors on these studies. They also assisted by helping analyze the results and write the report.

“This is further evidence that these vaccines are safe and effective. They keep you and those around you significantly safer. We know there are some individuals who can’t receive the vaccine, but I urge every person who can take the COVID-19 vaccine to do so,” said Dr. Susan Turney, Marshfield Clinic Health System CEO. “I’m so proud that our Health System is involved in this critical research to help provide more data and more certainty about the efficacy of these vaccines.”

The vaccine effectiveness study results are encouraging, and other COVID-19 vaccine safety studies have demonstrated it is safe for adolescents to the elderly.

“Vaccination is the safe and effective way to enjoy the relaxed masking and social distancing rules we’re seeing throughout the U.S.,” Meece said.

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