

Weekly Updates

COVID-19 nasal vaccine

Over the last few months, there has been lots of rising interest in nasal vaccine which puts the vaccine directly where the virus attacks us—in the nose.

Nasal vaccines, which use the same technology as the injected vaccine, might be more effective because of how they are administered according to PBS.

Nasal vaccines mimic the virus in order to prepare the immune system against a virus, just like any other vaccine. But importantly, they mimic the process of infection, too, and boost protective response within the mucosal immune system of the nose and throat. In simple terms, intranasal vaccines are like knowing there is going to be a break-in and putting your guards in the right location before the trouble even starts.

The science bears this idea out. In a head-to-head comparison, AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine provided greater protection in hamsters that were vaccinated intranasally compared to those vaccinated intramuscularly.

Protecting our bodies right where the virus attacks makes the most sense. Many, however, may be wondering if it is too late for them to get it or just not necessary, if they've already been vaccinated, but according to PBS that isn't the case.

Nasal vaccination could also be used in concert with intramuscular immunization. In a recent study, my colleagues and I gave some mice both a nasal and intramuscular vaccine and exposed them to a lethal dose of SARS-CoV-2 – 100% of these mixed-vaccinated mice survived, compared to only 10% of the unvaccinated mice. We are now testing if this mixed approach is superior to just intranasal or just intramuscular approaches on their own.

Finally, intranasal vaccines are painless, noninvasive and do not require specialized training to use.

None are currently approved for use in humans, however there are seven currently in trials in humans. It may be awhile before they are approved, but perhaps by this fall, one or more may be approved for use to help protect the population.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/how-nasal-covid-19-vaccines-can-help-prepare-for-infection-where-it-starts>

The Paxlovid rebound

Many who are considered high-risk patients for COVID-19 have been given Paxlovid to help protect them, but now the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is warning about a rebound of COVID after five days.

However, the cases the CDC is seeing return among these high-risk patients is far better than those not getting it per a CBS News report.

"If you take Paxlovid, you might get symptoms again," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky told CBS News. "We haven't yet seen anybody who has returned with symptoms needing to go to the hospital. So, generally, a milder course."

After a patient recovers, rebound has been reported to occur two to

eight days later. Still, the CDC says the benefits of taking Paxlovid far outweigh the risks. Among unvaccinated people at high risk for severe disease, it reduced the risk of hospitalization and death by nearly 90%, according to the CDC.

Paxlovid hasn't been available for all that long, so further research is going to be needed, but experts within the CDC are saying that these symptoms are not from new infections, but rather the same virus still infecting them.

The cases, even though not being nearly as dangerous, are still being observed by the CDC

Pfizer said it is currently seeing a rebound rate of about 2%, but is continuing to monitor patients.

Because the cases that return are relatively mild, experts are just

informing people to continue to do what we've been doing, per CBS News.

So far, it appears the risk isn't so much that patients could become very ill again, but that they might unknowingly infect someone else. If COVID-19 does return, Walensky has this advice: "They should test. They should put their mask back on. And if their test is positive, restart the isolation protocol."

Many of us have burnt out on COVID, but we have to keep doing these challenging efforts to keep our communities safe.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/paxlovid-covid-rebound-symptoms/>



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Mash Ka Wisen Powwow Grounds

Veterans Honoring, Dance Specials,
Singing Special, FDL Royalty Contest