

The GOOD NEWS is that almost 50% of US adults have received at least one dose of vaccine (which is considered quite protective in itself) and 25% have been fully vaccinated. Florida, however, is having an upswing in cases and deaths (111 yesterday) likely due to Spring Break and Bike Week gatherings, in addition to reopening of Theme Parks.

Even after being fully vaccinated, it is important, to mask and distance if possible in public places. This is because the vaccine is effective 85-90% of the time, meaning that 15% of us can still contract the COVID virus from others, and continue to spread it. The likelihood of dying from this, however, is very slight, as there is still quite a bit of protection for all of those vaccinated. Out of the millions of folks vaccinated so far, only about 5000 + have contracted COVID, and none have died.

The CDC recommends groups (they call them PODS - LOL) can now meet without masking if all are vaccinated.

The Johnson and Johnson vaccine has temporarily been removed, due to a very rare but deadly side effect IN WOMEN ONLY of blood clots within the brain. It has occurred in less than 1 in a million vaccinations, but with the abundance of vaccine available, it is probably not worth the risk, at the current time.

Try for Pfizer, Moderna, or Astra-Zenica vaccines. The message for all is to **GET VACCINATED WHEREVER AND WHENEVER YOU CAN.**

At the current time, over 3 million people have died around the world due to COVID, and the number is growing. Travel is still being restricted. The highest numbers are in Brazil and India. Some believe that the 560,000 deaths here in the US is the greatest number for any one country, but many countries (in Africa and South America) are overwhelmed and unable to count the dead (or even bury them), and some countries (Russia and Iran) are hiding the numbers, for political/defense purposes.

Do not be surprised to find that a booster shot to cover some of the variants may be recommended for next Fall. Sounds as if we can start doing some outdoor singing soon !!!!

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