



Public Safety and Health Report- April 2021
Maury Edwards Public Safety Chairman

COVID 19 Vaccine- Do I need that second shot?

There has been a lot of discussion concerning the need for the second “booster” shot of the COVID-19 vaccine. There’s data that indicates that upwards of 50 – 85 % efficacy after the first shot and the full 95% effect after the second shot. Advocates are suggesting that a single shot would be adequate and the vaccine for the second shot could be used to vaccinate others. Recent data indicates that 8% of vaccinated persons do not get the second dose. Everyone is eager to get a vaccine right now and one dose is certainly better than none but with new variants spreading that are more contagious and deadly it’s important that everyone is as protected as possible. They’re even talking about a third booster shot down the road. If people give up their second dose it will be harder for them to get more doses down the line and they won’t be as protected against the new variants.

Here’s why the second dose is necessary. When the immune system first encounters a vaccine, it activates two important types of white blood cell. First up are the plasma B cells, which primarily focus on making antibodies. Unfortunately, this cell type is short-lived, so although your body might be swimming in antibodies within just a few weeks, without the second shot this is often **followed by a rapid decline**.

Then there are the T cells, each of which is specifically tailored to identify a particular pathogen and kill it. Some of these, memory T cells, are able to linger in the body for decades until they stumble upon their target – meaning immunity from vaccines or infections can **sometimes last a lifetime**. But crucially, you usually won't have many of this cell type until the second meeting. The booster dose is a way of re-exposing the body to the antigens –, once you've had your boost you'll have a higher frequency of memory T cells and ditto to some extent for the size of the pool of memory B cells you'll have. They'll also be making higher quality antibodies."

Otherwise, a person might be immune after a single vaccination but it won’t last very long. The 50-85% numbers from a single dose were reported shortly after the vaccine became effective, 14-21 days. Longer term efficacy has not been determined. The bottom line is, “Get both doses”.

Special thanks to Jelena Verkler for her expert advice on the subject.

Here’s an excellent reference on the subject:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210114-covid-19-how-effective-is-a-single-vaccine-dose>

Proposed Heli-Hydrant Project

In March, Scott Martin and I sent a letter in support of La Habra Heights Heli-Hydrant project. We attended the March La Habra Heights Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting (virtual) where the attributes of the Heli-Hydrant project were discussed. L.A. County Fire will be contracting to have high capacity Chinook helicopters available for fire suppression. These helicopters will have 3X the capacity of the currently used copters. The Heli-Hydrant will allow these high volume copters to refill in 6 minutes and return to the fire within immediately thus providing considerably more fire suppression. One of the concerns with regard to the location of the Heli-Hydrants was the possibility of disrupting the wildlife corridors in the area. We were relieved to hear that the Committee was in discussion with the Puente Hills Wildlife Authority and suitable locations were being identified. We also learned of the many safety restrictions necessary for proper site locations.

We feel that any concerns with this project have been adequately addressed.

Anti-Asian Hate Concerns

I attended the community meeting on anti-Asian hate and public safety. As has been reported in the news, hate crimes against Asian-Americans has been increasing since the pandemic began last year. In the county, hate crimes rose from 42 in 2019 to 72 in 2020 and looks to more than double that in 2021. This includes all ethnic groups but the rate for Asians has increased 4 fold. All incidents need to be reported. It is believed that less than 50% of hate incidents are actually reported. If you see something, say something.