

## COVID\_Projections2

Several people have read my previous message about COVID\_Questions2 and have requested response. I do not have accurate answers, as future projection that involves the actions of people is difficult. The first item on my list is to find out what happened in 2020. For that the [PEW RESEARCH findings are a starting source](#). My personal summary is that I do not know anyone who has contracted COVID, but I have not been able to go to Canada, Japan, or other places that I wanted to visit in 2020

1. When will people get their COVID vaccine? It is now January 2021, I am 75 years old, overweight, and have asthma occasionally. There has been no hint of any possibility of getting the vaccine soon, even though I am in a high-risk category. Everyone by July 2021.
2. What is the vaccine effectiveness? Latest information indicates that for those over 75, the two-dose effectiveness is less than 80%. I do not like that estimate very much; I was hoping for a number for older people closer to the advertised average rate of 95%.
3. What percentage of people will decline to get a COVID inoculation? The current number in the PEW study is that 60% intend to get the COVID vaccine; that leaves 40% of the people who do not currently plan to get the vaccine. Even if that decline number declines, that leaves a lot of Americans who may be susceptible to COVID infections.
4. What is herd immunity and when does it become effective? There have been several estimates on the Internet, and the values keep changing. One unknown is the immunity of people who have already had COVID. I have seen estimates of between 80% to 95% vaccine or prior infection rates to have herd immunity.
5. When will travel to a foreign country even become feasible for Americans? A foreign country is too broad a question. I would like to visit Japan, Canada, and Great Britain (United Kingdom). Right now, all are closed to Americans, and I do not expect them to be available until they think such visits are safe. I think their Governments will be quite slow to open the country to visitors, so probably not until much later in 2021.
6. However, I am receiving travel brochures for trips and cruises. Have these companies read the detailed CDC criteria for allowing cruises from United States ports? Carnival has cruises scheduled from the USA in May 2021 to the Caribbean, Mexico, and Alaska. There are also trips scheduled in the Mediterranean starting in May 2021. All trips may be subject to potential COVID testing and isolation rules. I expect delays in starting cruises.
7. Mask wearing? [Everyone, everywhere for the next year](#). Some people do not understand.
8. Education: Schools in Japan are mostly open. The rate of infection for children is limited. School classroom education is a political question with location dependent answers.
9. Assemblages of 20 or more people: Places like senior centers are already planning to be closed until 2022. Some places are remaining open, but people there are taking risks.
- 9.5 When can I eat at a buffet? Not in 2021 and unlikely in 2022. The concept may become economically unviable with the proposed regulations.