

# THE BEST OF THE WEEK (30 mag – 05 giu 2022)

S. Reardon

## **Long COVID risk falls only slightly after vaccination, huge study shows**

Nature New, May 2022; doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-01453-0

### **Abstract**

Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 lowers the risk of long COVID after infection by only about 15%, according to a study of more than 13 million people. That's the largest cohort that has yet been used to examine how much vaccines protect against the condition, but it is unlikely to end the uncertainty.

Long COVID — illness that persists for weeks or months after infection with SARS-CoV-2 — has proved difficult to study, not least because the array of symptoms makes it hard to define. Even finding out how common it is has been challenging. Some studies have suggested that it occurs in as many as 30% of people infected with the virus. But a November study of about 4.5 million people treated at US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals suggests that the number is 7% overall and lower than that for those who were not hospitalized.

C. del Rio et al.

## **COVID-19 in 2022—The Beginning of the End or the End of the Beginning?**

Jama, May 2022; doi:10.1001/jama.2022.9655

### **Abstract**

Now in the third year of the coronavirus pandemic, well after the Omicron variant surge, both in the US and globally the number of daily cases had been declining to their lowest levels in more than 6 months. While it seemed that SARS-CoV-2 was moving toward endemicity, US infections are again rising in May 2022, and the reported number of cases is likely a gross underestimate of actual infections because many infections are unreported with increasing at-home testing. Several factors help explain the current trends: The emergence of the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron and the more recently identified subvariant called BA.2.12.1, the limited durability of protection from infection both from vaccination and prior infection, and lifting of mandates (such as mask use) and other restrictions across the country.