

- Vaccination / Virus**COVID-19 vaccine booster increases antibody responses: NIH study**

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A booster dose of the Moderna (mRNA-1273) COVID-19 vaccine given to rhesus macaques about six months after their primary vaccine series significantly increased levels of neutralising antibodies against all known SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, according to a new study from US-based National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists and colleagues. The study, published in *Science*, also showed that the increased neutralising antibody responses were sustained for at least eight weeks after the boost, were significantly higher than after the primary vaccine series, and generated high-level protection, meaning the ability to significantly limit virus from replicating in the lungs and nose. These data suggest that boosting triggers a strong immune memory response and potentially longer lasting immunity. The researchers also determined that both the mRNA-1273 vaccine developed to target the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and a slightly modified version of the vaccine targeting the Beta variant, were equivalent in their ability to boost antibody responses and protect.

