

Mayo Clinic Minute: Looking ahead after 2 years of COVID-19 pandemic

Video

Audio

	From the first travel-related U.S. case on Jan. 21, 2020, to lockdowns, shutdowns and widespread masking, the world with COVID-19 has changed quite a bit. Will the future be changed, as well?
Gregory Poland, M.D. Infectious Diseases Mayo Clinic	"We will take respiratory illnesses in the winter seriously. And you'll see people who are in the know, wearing masks during respiratory virus winter-type season. I think you'll see people wearing them when traveling, even if it's not required."
	COVID-19 vaccines — a spectacular human accomplishment — says Dr. Poland, may be given in tandem each year with the influenza vaccine.
	"I think you and I will in the future be getting, if not annually, close to annually, flu and coronavirus vaccines. And we'll learn to live with it."
	For now, as the omicron surge continues, it's important to continue all safety measures. Dr. Poland says everyone fundamentally has two choices when it comes to vaccination.
	"We get the vaccine, or we get infected, reinfected and reinfected. Getting the vaccine, no matter what your belief about its immediate safety, is far safer than getting infected and getting infected again."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed.