

# Health Ministry says COVID vaccine is only 40% effective at halting transmission



New figures released by the Health Ministry claim that the COVID vaccine is only 39% effective at preventing the transmission of the coronavirus, but more than 91% effective at preventing severe cases.

The figures, based on cases from June 20 to July 17 — a period when the Delta variant took hold across Israel — show that those who are fully vaccinated have only a 40.5% chance of avoiding symptomatic COVID, but an 88% chance of avoiding hospitalization due to the disease.

The figures also show that among those who were vaccinated in January,

there was only a 16% effectiveness against being infected, compared to 44% of those vaccinated in February, 67% of those who received their shots in March, and 75% for those vaccinated in April.

The vaccine's effectiveness at preventing severe cases for those vaccinated in January remains 86%, according to the figures, only slightly lower than those vaccinated in the following months.

Prominent epidemiology experts have [cast doubt](#), however, on the Health Ministry's claims that the COVID vaccine has experienced a major drop in effectiveness in recent months.