

is the attached image correct

The attached image misrepresents the scientific consensus and real-world data on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and the evolution of public health messaging.

Analysis of Claims in the Image

1. Vaccine Effectiveness Over Time

- The image suggests a rapid and arbitrary decline in vaccine protection percentages (from 95% to 70% to 50% within months), followed by statements that the vaccine offers "no protection," then only reduces severity, then only reduces hospitalizations, and finally, offers no benefit at all.
- In reality, COVID-19 vaccines were initially shown in clinical trials to have high efficacy (about 95% for mRNA vaccines) against symptomatic infection shortly after vaccination^[1]. Over time, effectiveness against infection did decrease, especially with the emergence of new variants, but vaccines continued to provide strong protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death^{[1] [2]}.

2. Protection Against Severe Outcomes

- The image falsely implies that vaccines eventually provide no meaningful protection.
- Data from the CDC and other studies consistently show that while protection against mild infection wanes, vaccines continue to significantly reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death for many months after vaccination, especially with booster doses^{[1] [2] [3]}.

3. Transmission and Severity

- The claim that vaccines do not reduce spread is misleading. While vaccines are less effective at preventing transmission of some variants compared to the original strain, they still reduce the likelihood of infection and, therefore, transmission, especially soon after vaccination^[3]. They also reduce the severity of illness if breakthrough infection occurs^[2].

4. Hospitalizations and Death

- Vaccines have been shown to consistently reduce hospitalizations and deaths, even as their effectiveness against mild infection wanes^{[1] [2] [3]}. There is no evidence that vaccinated individuals are left with no protection against death or that the benefit disappears entirely.

5. Satirical/False Conclusion

- The final statement, "You die, but you go to heaven," is not based on any scientific or public health communication and is clearly satirical or misleading.

What the Evidence Shows

- Initial protection against symptomatic infection was high, but waned over time, especially without boosters ^[1] ^[2].
- Protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death remained strong for many months, and could be restored or enhanced with booster doses ^[2] ^[3].
- Vaccines continued to play a critical role in reducing the burden of COVID-19, preventing millions of hospitalizations and deaths ^[3].

Conclusion

The image misrepresents the evolving understanding of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and distorts the public health messaging from organizations like the World Health Organization and CDC. COVID-19 vaccines have consistently provided strong protection against severe outcomes, even as their effectiveness against mild infection has decreased over time. The statements in the image are inaccurate and do not reflect the scientific evidence or official guidance ^[1] ^[2] ^[3].

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1. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10090353/>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/benefits.html>
3. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2022/two-years-covid-vaccines-prevented-millions-deaths-hospitalizations>

May		95% Protection	 World Health Organization
Jun		70% Protection	
Jul		50% Protection	
Aug		No protection, but reduces the spread	
Sep		Doesn't reduce the spread, but reduces severity	
Oct		Doesn't reduce severity, but reduces hospitalizations	
Nov		Doesn't reduce hospitalizations, but you aren't going to die	
Dec		You die, but you go to heaven	