



Folkhälsomyndigheten

The protection of the covid-19 vaccine opens up for some relief for the elderly

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Both the number of illnesses and the number of deaths have decreased among people living in special housing for the elderly, as the proportion who have been vaccinated against covid-19 has increased. This opens up the possibility for residents to meet relatives again up close in their own home, and to avoid decisions on restraining orders.

To date, the Swedish Public Health Agency's data indicate that vaccinations against covid-19 have provided good protection against both infection, and thus illness and death, among people in the group that has the highest priority for vaccination in Sweden: people living in special housing for the elderly (SÄBO) .

The number of cases of covid-19 among the residents has decreased as the vaccination rate has increased.

- It is very gratifying to see a reduced spread of infection in the group that runs the greatest risk. It is too early to say that it is definitely due to the vaccinations, but the data points in that direction, both our data in Sweden and data from other countries, says Anders Tegnell, state epidemiologist at the Swedish Public Health Agency.

The Swedish Public Health Agency now assesses that those who have been vaccinated with two doses can return to a slightly more normal life when it comes to contacts with other people, two weeks after the second dose.

The person who is vaccinated thus no longer needs to be as careful as before in their own home. For example, it is possible to meet asymptomatic relatives and to get physically close to them.

- We know that many have suffered from loneliness and isolation, and missed being able to

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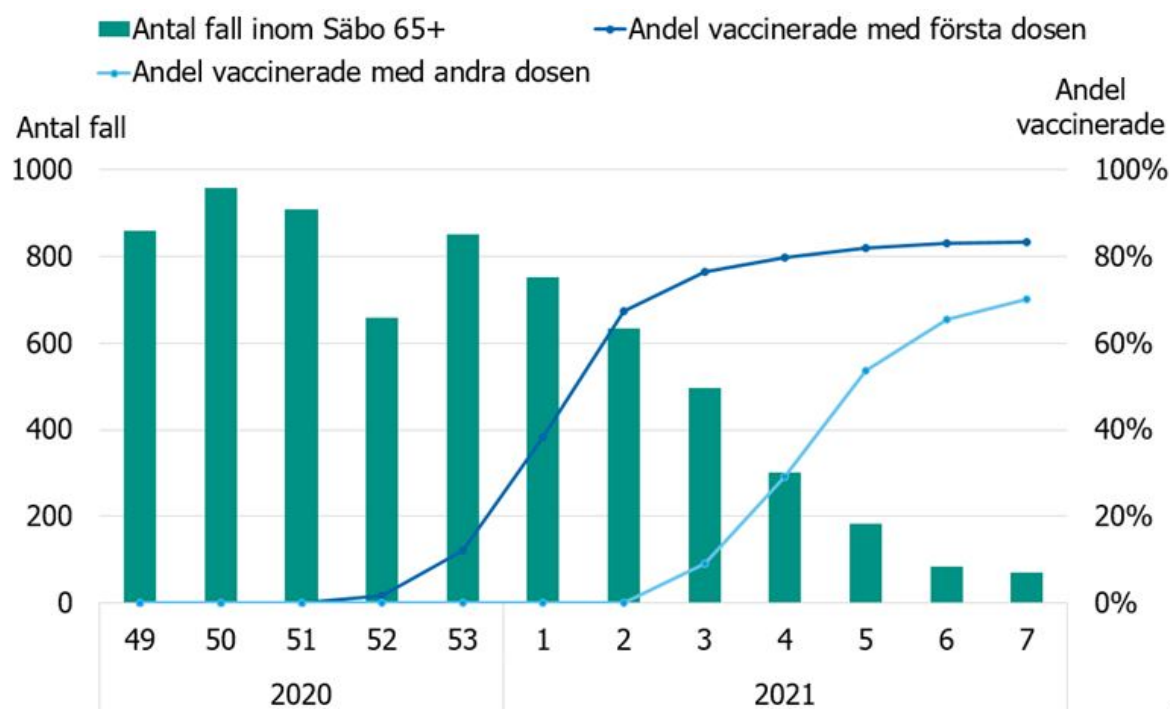
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Even if the recipient is vaccinated, everyone - residents, visitors and staff - needs to continue to act to protect other residents who are not vaccinated. To date, approximately 83 percent of the people living at SÄBO have been vaccinated with one dose and 70 percent with two, according to the latest reported data.

Folkhälsomyndigheten, som har bemyndigats att fatta beslut om besöksförbud på SÄBO, tar hänsyn till bland annat vaccinationstäckningen på boenden i beredningen av besluten. För ett boende med en hög andel vaccinerade finns som regel ingen anledning att fatta beslut om en åtgärd som inskränker den personliga friheten i de boendes hem så kraftigt som ett besöksförbud gör.

Det är för tidigt att säga när de generella restriktioner och rekommendationer som gäller med anledning av pandemin kan lättas i Sverige. Även den som är vaccinerad behöver fortsätta att följa gällande regler och rekommendationer om allas ansvar för att minska spridning av covid-19. Arbete hemifrån, att undvika trängsel, att stanna hemma och testa sig vid symtom, att begränsa antalet kontakter, och att vara noga med handhygien gäller även fortsatt.

Picture. The number of cases of covid-19 and the proportion vaccinated with 1 and 2 doses among persons in special housing (SÄBO).



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