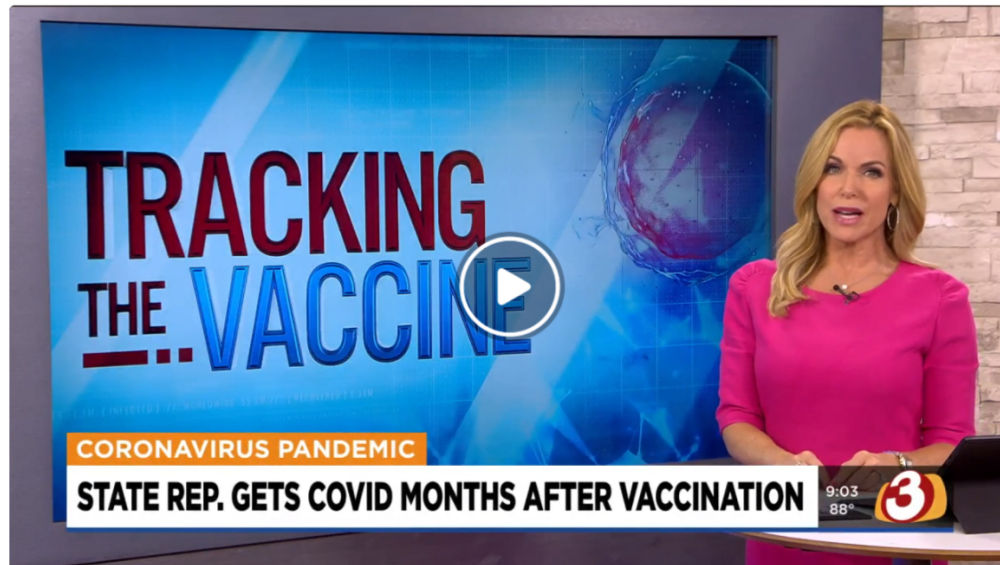


Fully-vaccinated Arizona lawmaker goes to emergency room due to COVID-19

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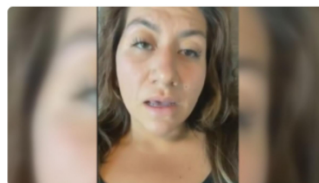
Arizona Rep. Alma Hernandez from Tucson had to visit the emergency room overnight because of COVID-19 even though she's full vaccinated.



TUCSON, AZ (3TV/CBS 5) - While the number of Arizonans fully vaccinated goes up each day, a state lawmaker said she's proof we can't let our guard down. Despite getting both shots months ago, she still got COVID-19 and spent the night in the hospital. Emergency room doctors said this is so rare they haven't seen it in many of our Valley emergency rooms, but it's not impossible. They said in this case, it's very important to focus on how short of a hospital stay it was.

It was a thread of tweets nobody expected to see on Tuesday; Tucson state Rep. Alma Hernandez said she was in the hospital for COVID-19 even though she's been fully vaccinated for nearly three months. On Tuesday, Hernandez tweeted she was in the emergency room overnight and into the morning after her fever returned and her migraine was unbearable writing, "my body has reacted differently, so I needed help."

"It is very, very rare. I haven't seen it myself. I don't know if any of my colleagues have seen one in a fully vaccinated person," said



Tucson state Rep. Alma Hernandez said she was in the hospital for COVID-19
(Source: Alma Hernandez)



emergency medicine doctor Frank Lovecchio. Lovecchio works in the ER at Valleywise hospital. He said in this case, the vaccine still likely played a large role.

Her fever returned and her migraine was unbearable writing, "my body has reacted differently, so I needed help."

(Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

"It's not unreasonable to believe her disease would have been much worse," Lovecchio said.

Hernandez tweeted she was able to go home in the morning after multiple medications and IVs, feeling much better and feeling grateful she was vaccinated. ER Dr. Jonathan Maitem works in three HonorHealth emergency rooms and also noted how rare hospitalization after full vaccination is. "I've actually personally seen none, and I don't even know of anybody who has seen one person with symptoms not even once. I've only read of a case report, but I've never actually seen it," said Maitem.

Maitem said the length of hospital stay is key in this case, though, attributing the vaccine to that. "I think one amazing thing to note specifically about her is she wasn't in the hospital for very long. She wasn't admitted to the hospital, and she certainly wasn't in the ICU," Maitem said.

Arizona's Family texted with Rep. Hernandez Tuesday — she said she's holding off on public interviews for a bit to monitor how she's doing and make sure everything is OK for the next few days but said as long as everything stays on track from here, she plans to be back at work at the Capitol next Monday.

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