

COVID-19 VACCINES

MYTHS

VS

FACTS

MYTH: Vaccines are unsafe and don't work.

FACT: Vaccines are safe and effective. Today, vaccines have an excellent safety record and independent health experts, along with the World Health Organization, have shown that vaccines are far safer than therapeutic medicines, like those found in your medicine cabinet. It is also known that vaccines prevented at least 10 million deaths between 2010 and 2015 and protected many more lives from serious illness.

MYTH: The vaccine was rushed, so it's probably not safe.

FACT: Coordinated, around-the-clock efforts were put forth since the beginning of the pandemic to accelerate the production of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. The research has shown the vaccines have very little, if any, side effects, and is approximately 95% effective.

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines will give me COVID-19.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19. The vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

MYTH: I don't want the COVID-19 virus injected into my body.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines do not use live, dead, or weakened strains of coronavirus. Instead, the authorized vaccines are messenger RNA vaccines (also called mRNA vaccines). This type of vaccine is newly authorized, but not unknown. Researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccine technology for decades. mRNA has also been studied for some time now to target specific cancer cells.





MYTH: I will test positive on COVID-19 tests after getting the vaccine.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response, as expected after vaccination, there is a chance you may test positive on some antibody tests. Health experts are still looking into how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

MYTH: I've had COVID-19, so I don't need to get vaccinated.

FACT: Re-infection with COVID-19 is possible and people who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated. Health experts don't know how long a person is protected from getting sick after recovering from COVID-19. Some early evidence suggests that this natural immunity may not last very long.

MYTH: Once I've received a COVID-19 vaccine, I'm immune for life.

FACT: It's unknown how long immunity from a COVID-19 vaccine will last and whether you'll need a vaccine on a regular basis, like the flu shot, or a booster every few years, like a tetanus shot.

MYTH: I can stop wearing a mask and social distancing after I get two doses of the vaccine.

FACT: The pandemic is not yet over. You need to continue to cover your nose and mouth with a mask, wash your hands often, and avoid close contact with others outside your household even after receiving two doses of the vaccine. While experts continue to learn more about the virus, the vaccines, and community spread, it's important to continue to follow guidelines to best protect yourself and others.





MYTH: The vaccine changes my DNA.

FACT: The vaccine does not change your DNA. It's called an mRNA vaccine, which is a type of vaccine that teaches your immune system to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. mRNA does not affect or interact with a person's DNA.

MYTH: I got the flu shot this season, so I don't need a COVID-19 vaccine.

FACT: While the flu and COVID-19 share a similar list of symptoms, they are two different illnesses caused by two different viruses. So, when it comes to vaccines, you want to be doubly protected from the flu and from coronavirus.

Source: CDC, WHO, AARP