



COVID-19 VACCINE MYTH BUSTERS

MYTH: Researchers rushed the creation of the COVID-19 vaccine, so it can't be trusted.

FACT: The vaccines were made with a method that has been in development for years, so pharmaceutical companies could start development early in the pandemic. Vaccine developers didn't cut corners, but conducted some steps on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster so researchers were able to quickly determine if the vaccine worked for the trial volunteers who were vaccinated.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine can cause death.

FACT: Studies found that the two initial vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech, are both about 95% effective — and reported no serious or life-threatening side effects. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine will make me sick with COVID-19.

FACT: None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or vaccines currently in development in the U.S. contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

MYTH: It is not safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or would like to have a child one day.

FACT: There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of COVID-19 vaccination.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine will change my DNA.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Vaccines available in the U.S. are Messenger RNA vaccines, which teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response to the virus. The Messenger RNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

MYTH: If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, I don't need to get vaccinated.

FACT: You should be vaccinated even if you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Johns Hopkins Medicine