



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 drug companies could start making the vaccine early in the pandemic. Vaccine developers didn't cut corners, but conducted some steps at the same time to gather data faster. That way researchers were able to quickly determine if the vaccine worked for the people who volunteered to be vaccinated.

MYTH: There is no special reason for people of color to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

FACT: The pandemic has heavily affected communities of color that are more often in front-line, essential jobs. Their job positions make them more open to be exposed to COVID-19. They also may have more chronic conditions that can make COVID-19 worse, such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease.

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines will deliver a microchip into my body.

FACT: This false rumor started after comments about digital vaccine records. State computerized vaccine records help patients and physicians track vaccines they have received. There is nothing electronic in the vaccines.

MYTH: There weren't enough minorities involved in testing the COVID-19 vaccine for safety.

FACT: When Pfizer tested its COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S., about 4,000 of the study participants were Black or African American and 11,000 were Hispanic or Latinx. In the Moderna group of over 30,000 participants, 10% were Black or African American, 20% were Hispanic or Latinx and 5% were Asian. U.S. test participants for Johnson & Johnson's vaccine were 15% Hispanic or Latinx, 13% were Black or African American, 6% were Asian and 1% was Native American.

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. The Messenger RNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

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: It is unsafe for me to get a vaccine if I am pregnant or would like to have a child one day.

FACT: There is currently no data that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy. There have been no issues with women getting pregnant after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Family Physicians and Johns Hopkins Medicine