

COVID-19 VACCINE Myths

01 - Will the COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

NO! The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use "messenger RNA" to teach our cells how to protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19. This is specific to the virus and **DOES NOT affect your DNA in any way.** The Johnson and Johnson vaccine uses inactive virus to teach your body how to fight off the virus that causes COVID-19. This will also not give you COVID-19 or alter your DNA.

02 - If I had COVID-19, do I still need to be vaccinated?

YES! We don't know how long you are protected from COVID-19 after you have it so it is possible to get it again. It's **better to get vaccinated because this protection usually lasts longer than the immunity you have after being sick.** **NOTE:** If you were treated with "monoclonal antibodies" or "convalescent plasma" when you had COVID-19, you should wait 90 days before you are vaccinated. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you got or if you have other questions about getting vaccinated.

03 - The vaccine was available quickly. Is it safe?

Some people are concerned that the vaccines have been developed too quickly. But the **vaccines are actually based on a science that was developed almost 20 years ago** to help respond to an outbreak, just like we are having now. This makes the process of making the vaccine quicker. The companies that make them have also been given a lot of resources to create these vaccines so that they could be manufactured quickly.

04 - Will I test positive for COVID-19 after vaccination?

No! None of the vaccines will cause you to test positive on a COVID-19 virus test. This test shows current infection. You might test positive on an antibody test because the vaccines help your body develop antibodies, which is what protects you from infection. This test just shows that you are actually protected from getting COVID-19.

05 - Is it safe if I'm pregnant or want to get pregnant?

Yes! There is no evidence that getting vaccinated is dangerous to women who are already pregnant, are breastfeeding, or who want to get pregnant. In fact, getting COVID-19 is dangerous to both the woman and her baby so getting vaccinated is the best protection. There is no reason not to get vaccinated. But if you are still concerned, talk with your doctor.

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