

## Debunking COVID-19 Myths

### 1. Myth: COVID-19 Vaccines impact fertility.

**Q: Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?**

**Yes.** If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Like all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects now and will continue to study them for many years.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. Myth: COVID-19 Vaccines will alter my DNA.

**Q: Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

**No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

There are currently two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for use in the United States: messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and a viral vector vaccine. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the genetic material in the vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. All COVID-19 vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Myth: If I get a vaccine, I'll also get COVID-19.

**Q: Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?**

**No.** None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.<sup>3</sup>

#### 4. Myth: Receiving the vaccine will make me magnetic.

**Q: Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to be magnetic?**

No. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals such as iron, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth alloys, as well as any manufactured products such as microelectronics, electrodes, carbon nanotubes, and nanowire semiconductors. In addition, the typical dose for a COVID-19 vaccine is less than a milliliter, which is not enough to allow magnets to be attracted to your vaccination site even if the vaccine was filled with a magnetic metal.<sup>4</sup>

#### 5. Myth: COVID-19 Vaccines were funded by individuals wishing to track Americans every move.

**Q: Do the COVID-19 vaccines contains controversial substances or implants such as microchips or tracking devices?**

No. The first two COVID-19 vaccines to be authorized by the FDA contain mRNA and other, normal vaccine ingredients, such as fats (which protect the mRNA), salts, as well as a small amount of sugar. These COVID-19 vaccines were not developed using fetal tissue, and they do not contain any material, such as implants, microchips or tracking devices.<sup>5</sup>

#### 6. Myth: 5G mobile networks can spread COVID-19

**Q: Can viruses spread through radio waves/mobile networks.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

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[https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fac](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact)

[t](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact)

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[https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fac](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact)

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Viruses cannot travel on radio waves/mobile networks. COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks.

COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. People can also be infected by touching a contaminated surface and then their eyes, mouth or nose.<sup>6</sup>

## 7. Myth: The COVID-19 vaccines don't work on new strains of the virus.

**Q: Will getting the COVID-19 Vaccine protect me against all new variants?**

Some new variants have been shown to spread more easily or cause more severe illness. The good news is that the current vaccines protect well against the variants circulating in Colorado, such as the U.K. (B117) variant. Scientists are still studying how well the COVID-19 vaccines work against the different variants found around the world.<sup>7</sup>

## 8. Myth: I've already had COVID-19, I don't need the vaccine. I'm immune.

**Q: If you've already had COVID-19 is a vaccine effective to prevent re-infection?**

Yes, vaccination regardless of previous COVID-19 infection is effective in combating severe disease. An individual can be re-infected with COVID-19 even after recovering from a natural infection. Early evidence suggests that natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long. Therefore, it is recommended that even people who have had COVID-19 should be vaccinated.

## 9. Myth: COVID-19 vaccines interact negatively with other medications.

**Q: Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am taking other medications?**

Yes, you can still get the COVID-19 vaccine if you are taking medications. Although vaccines and medications can sometimes affect each other, these interactions don't usually cause problems. People with a variety of medical conditions were included in the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine trials.

## 10. Myth: COVID-19 vaccines are not safe for people with substance use disorders.

**Q: Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I misuse substances?**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.webmd.com/lung/ss/slideshow-covid-myths>

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people with underlying medical conditions, including substance use disorders, to be vaccinated against COVID-19. No safety issues have been reported linking substance use to adverse reactions to any of the COVID-19 vaccines available to consumers in the United States.<sup>8</sup>

**11. Myth: The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous and not worth the shot.**

**Q: What are the side effects of vaccination and are they worse than just getting COVID-19?**

The COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects, but the vast majority are very short term and not serious or dangerous. The vaccine developers report that some people experience pain where they were injected; body aches; headaches or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate your immune system. In contrast, getting COVID-19 can cause a prolonged illness, hospitalization, and even death.

If you have allergies — especially severe ones that require you to carry an EpiPen — discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your doctor, who can assess your risk and provide more information about if and how you can get vaccinated safely.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/comorbidity/covid-19-substance-use>

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<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact>