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COVID-19 Vaccine: Addressing Misinformation

There is a lot of information about COVID-19 vaccines. It can be difficult to know which sources of information to trust. [Here are some suggestions](#) for where and how you can look for accurate and trustworthy vaccine information.

Does the vaccine contain a microchip? *Updated 1/11/21*

No. There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database. This myth started after comments made by Bill Gates from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation about a digital certificate of vaccine records. The technology he was referencing is not a microchip, has not been implemented in any manner, and is not tied to the development, testing, or distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Can mRNA vaccines change your DNA? *Updated 3/3/21*

No. The COVID-19 vaccines that use messenger RNA (mRNA) (Pfizer and Moderna), will not change your DNA. Messenger RNA vaccines work by instructing cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response, according to CDC. Messenger RNA injected into your body does not enter the cell nucleus, which is where DNA is kept. The mRNA do not interact with DNA in any way. Human cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after they have finished using the instructions.

Will the vaccine give you COVID-19? *Updated 1/11/21*

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development or in use in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. The goal for each of the vaccines is to teach our immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity 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 get sick, but this is not because they got the vaccine. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Is it better to get natural immunity to COVID-19? *Updated 1/19/21*

It is unclear how long immunity lasts after natural infection after recovering from COVID-19. However, people who get COVID-19 can have serious illnesses, and some have debilitating symptoms that persist for months. Vaccination is the best protection, and it is safe.

Will the flu vaccine protect me from COVID-19? *Updated 1/11/21*

No. Getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19; however, flu vaccination has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death. Getting a flu vaccine this season will be more important than ever, not only to reduce your risk from flu but also to help conserve potentially scarce healthcare resources.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am Catholic? *Updated 3/3/21*

Yes. In a [March 2 statement](#), chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine and the Committee on Pro-Life Activities state that it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines. For more information on this, please see: [Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) [Answers to Key Ethical Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) [Note of the Vatican Covid-19 Commission in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life "Vaccine for all. 20 points for a fairer and healthier world"](#) (Vatican Covid-19 Commission in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life)

Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19? *Updated 1/11/21*

No. Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the US cause you to test positive on viral tests (for example a nasal swab), which are used to see if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility? *Updated 1/22/21*

No, the COVID-19 vaccines do not cause infertility. There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccine causes increased risk of infertility, first or second trimester loss, stillbirth, or congenital anomalies of any kind. Several national medical organizations have put out statements that say as much, such as [this statement from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine](#). CDC has also shared information on vaccines during pregnancy [here](#).