Coronavirus Vaccine Myths Busted by Experts

**Myth 1**
Coronavirus vaccines were developed too fast to be safe

**Fact**
Coronavirus vaccines are safe. The coronavirus vaccines that are now being deployed have undergone strict and rigorous clinical trials involving thousands of human participants and approval from medical experts. The Pfizer vaccine has full FDA approval for those 16 years and older.

**Myth 2**
Coronavirus vaccines alter DNA

**Fact**
COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. 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.

**Myth 3**
Coronavirus vaccines affect fertility

**Fact**
People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the coronavirus vaccine. Currently no evidence shows that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems in women or men.

**Myth 4**
I don’t need the vaccine because I’ve already had COVID-19

**Fact**
Even if you’ve had COVID-19 you should get the vaccine. While a previous coronavirus infection might provide people with antibodies against reinfection, experts are not yet sure how long this protection lasts.

**Myth 5**
You can get coronavirus from the vaccine

**Fact**
You can’t get COVID-19 from the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna coronavirus vaccines because they do not contain live virus.

**Myth 6**
If you’ve had the vaccine you don’t need to wear a mask

**Fact**
Even if you are immunized against COVID-19, there is a small chance you could pass the virus on to others. See the latest CDC guidelines on masks.

**Myth 7**
The side effects of the coronavirus vaccine are dangerous

**Fact**
The coronavirus vaccine can have side effects, but the vast majority are short term. You may experience pain at the injection site; body aches; headaches or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate your immune system. If symptoms persist beyond two days, call your doctor.

**Myth 8**
The vaccine has a microchip to control the general population

**Fact**
There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database.

Information on this page was taken from Johns Hopkins Medicine, Mayo Clinic Health System, and CDC. Revised 09-15-21