



VACCINE HESITANCY

Common Misconceptions

“Vaccines Were Developed Too Quickly”

Harnessing technologic advances and building on earlier research led to early success

- Ten days after the first reported cases in China, the SARS-CoV-2 virus was [sequenced and made public](#)
- The importance of spike protein in vaccine development of vaccines for [SARS-CoV-1 in 2002](#) and [MERS-CoV in 2012](#) helped jumpstart the COVID-19 vaccine efforts in Jan 2020
- Delivery systems used for COVID-19 vaccines have been in development since the 1970s ([Adenovirus vector](#), [mRNA](#))

“FDA Evaluation Was Rushed”

Efficiencies in meeting FDA requirements, scaling up production, and prioritized review saved time

- Manufacturing process developed in parallel to clinical trials ([Operation Warp Speed](#))
- Required FDA Review and CDC Advisory Committee meetings were prioritized scheduled expeditiously; eliminating the typical scheduling delays.

“Trials Were Too Short to Detect Long Term Effects”

COVID-19 vaccine trials had similar size and duration of preceding vaccines with full approval

- High incidence allowed quick achievement of clinical endpoints ([adaptive trial design](#)), but monitoring for serious adverse events continued for 6 months after the final dose
- Previous vaccines with unanticipated effects were [detected within 8 weeks](#) of vaccination during the pre-approval trials—that’s why FDA required a minimum of 8 weeks
- [No vaccine approved/authorized for use in the United States has been definitively associated with long-lasting, on-going effects](#). Monitoring and research continue after authorization for as long as the vaccine is in use (e.g., [VAERS](#), [V-safe](#))
- [150 million+ COVID-19 vaccine first doses administered](#) in the US: CDC is already able to detect events occurring <1/million doses

“COVID-19 Is Usually Mild in Healthy People”

Risks of relying on post-infection immunity

- Serious illness or death, even among [younger adults](#)
- [Spreading COVID-19](#) to family and community when pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic
- [Asymptomatic and mild illness provide weak and time limited immunity](#) ([CDC recommends post-infection vaccination](#))
- Post-acute symptoms or [“long” COVID-19 syndrome](#)

Benefits of immunity through vaccination

- [Provides the same viral antigens](#) as infection but without symptoms of COVID-19
- Symptoms caused by vaccination may occur, but are [mild, short lived](#) (2-3 days)
- [Proven effectiveness](#) against severe disease and death
- Post-vaccination natural infection is rare but [milder and has not been transmitted](#)



Make an Informed Choice

Everyone has a choice to get vaccinated or not

- [Use reliable sources](#) for an informed decision
- [HCWs are influential](#) in patients’ decision making
- Communicate vaccine information to patients in an unbiased way ([COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits for Healthcare Teams](#))

Additional Resources: [AAFP | Countering Vaccine Hesitancy](#); [AMA | Tips for speaking with colleagues about COVID-19 vaccination](#); [de Beaumont Foundation | Language that Works](#); [FactCheck.Org | COVID-19 Misconceptions](#)



For the latest updates on COVID-19, visit:
www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals

