

COVID-19 Vaccines: Myth vs. Fact

Several claims are floating around regarding COVID-19 vaccines.
The facts below are some commonly heard myths in no specific order or preference.

VACCINE MYTH

VACCINE FACT



MYTH: *The COVID-19 vaccine can affect women's fertility.*

FACT: **The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility.**

The COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body's immune system to fight the virus by specifically targeting the proteins found on the coronavirus's surface. This protein is not the same as the protein involved during pregnancy. However, getting the COVID-19 disease can seriously impact pregnancy and overall health, including [respiratory complications or the need for ventilation support](#).



MYTH: *I'm going to get myocarditis or pericarditis with the COVID-19 vaccine.*

FACT: **Millions of doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given, and the risk of heart inflammation is quite low.**

The possibility of getting heart inflammation (e.g., myocarditis or pericarditis) after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is low (< .0001%). [Millions of cases of myocarditis are diagnosed each year](#) unrelated to COVID-19.



MYTH: *It's not worth getting the COVID-19 vaccine since you might still get COVID-19.*

FACT: **COVID-19 Vaccination is still beneficial**

[Vaccination provides a strong boost in protection and reduces the severity of illness](#) due to the COVID-19 disease. Being sick from COVID-19 infection may lead to other ailments such as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults and children ([MIS-A](#) or [MIS-C](#)), or [neurologic symptoms and cognitive dysfunction](#) among [long haulers](#).^{*} Getting vaccinated can reduce the risk of getting these ailments.



MYTH: *It's too late to get the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.*

FACT: **It's not too late to vaccinate!**

It's not too late! You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends your second dose may be given up to 6 weeks (42 days) after your first dose. However, if you do receive your second shot of the COVID-19 vaccine earlier or later than recommended, you do not have to restart the vaccine series.



MYTH: *The COVID-19 vaccine won't work against COVID-19 variants.*

FACT: **COVID-19 vaccines are still effective against COVID-19 variants, including the Delta and Omicron variant.**

Data suggests that COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use offer protection against variants spreading in the United States. A [booster dose](#) is recommended to strengthen protection again. This added protection is effective against new [Variants of Concern](#), especially against severe COVID-19, including death or hospitalization.

^{*}Long Haulers are those who experience ongoing health problems **four or more weeks** after first being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:

coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine



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Several myths are floating around regarding COVID-19 vaccines. The facts below are some commonly heard myths in no specific order or preference.

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VACCINE FACT



MYTH: *I don't need a booster dose after receiving my primary series for the COVID-19 vaccination.*

FACT: A COVID-19 booster dose is recommended following completion of a primary vaccination series.

All COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide significant protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, over time that protection may wane. [COVID-19 booster doses](#) help keep immunity strong and increase protection against COVID-19.



MYTH: *The COVID-19 vaccine's unknown long-term effects are too much of a risk.*

FACT: Experts are confident in the long-term safety of the COVID-19 vaccine through decades of research and practice.

COVID-19 vaccine technologies have been studied for years and used in other treatments without issue. mRNA vaccines have been studied for Influenza and Rabies, while adenovector vaccines have been beneficial since the 1970s to fight diseases, such as Ebola and Zika. Even now, the COVID-19 vaccine continues to be monitored for safety.



MYTH: *I don't have the money to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine.*

FACT: FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are distributed at no cost by states and local communities.

Everyone 5 years and older can get a vaccine at no cost. [Booster doses](#) are also available for anyone 12 years (Pfizer only) and above. You do not need an appointment, but it is available. You do not need to pay any out-of-pocket costs to get an authorized COVID-19 vaccine—not before, during, or after your appointment.



MYTH: *If lots of other people get the vaccine, I won't need it.*

FACT: Everyone who is able to get the COVID-19 vaccine should get vaccinated to protect you and your community.

Persons who are immunocompromised or living with chronic medical conditions may not have the opportunity to get vaccinated due to their weakened immune systems. The risk of death due to COVID-19 for these populations is also much higher. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 not only helps yourself, but others in your community.



MYTH: *I already had COVID-19, so I don't need the vaccine.*

FACT: People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 still benefit from getting vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines still benefit people who were sick with COVID-19. If you were sick with COVID-19, you should [wait to be vaccinated at least until recovery from illness](#) and have met the [criteria](#) to no longer require isolation. Reinfection is possible and getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

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