

COVID-19 Vaccines: Myth vs. Fact

Several myths 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. In the rare event heart inflammation from COVID-19 vaccination occurs, about 80% have recovered and been discharged.



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

FACT: **The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the risks of COVID-19 infection.**

Vaccination provides a strong boost in protection and reduces the severity of illness due to the COVID-19 disease. Additional risks from the COVID-19 disease without vaccination may lead to other ailments such as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), or neurologic symptoms and cognitive dysfunction among long haulers*.



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 variant.**

Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States offer protection against most variants currently spreading in the United States, including the Delta variant. COVID-19 vaccines still provide protection 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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MYTH: *The side effects of COVID-19 vaccines are too dangerous.*

FACT: *The possible side effects after COVID-19 vaccination are temporary and often go away after a few days.*

Side effects after vaccination are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects should go away in a few days. Although you may experience some minor pain or discomfort, often around the vaccination site, getting the COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice than being a **long hauler*** who was infected with 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 12 years and older can get a vaccine at no cost. You do not need an appointment, but it is available if preferred. You cannot buy COVID-19 vaccines online. 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.*

People are advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. If you were sick from COVID-19, the vaccine should be given 90 days after infection or after receiving antibody therapy. Reinfection is possible, and getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect yourself, your family, and your community.

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