

COVID-19 VACCINE CLEARING UP MISCONCEPTIONS

March 8, 2021

There are now authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines (**Two-dose vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna; one-dose vaccine: Johnson & Johnson**) in the United States. If a person has questions or want information about COVID-19 and the vaccine, it's important they educate themselves by getting accurate information from trusted sources, and not by what they may see on social media.

Here are some misconceptions and the corresponding facts about the COVID-19 vaccine:

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized and recommended vaccines or those currently in development contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. Therefore, the vaccine cannot make a person sick. Typically, it takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. This means it's possible that a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or right after vaccination and still get sick. It is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection. While the COVID-19 vaccine cannot make a person sick with COVID, the CDC says there are [possible side effects after getting the vaccine](#).

Will the COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. The vaccine does not change or interact with a person's DNA in any way.

Will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test after getting the vaccine?

No. The vaccine will not cause a person to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if a person has a current infection.

Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine even if I have already had COVID-19 and recovered?

Yes. A person should get the vaccination regardless of whether they already had COVID-19. Experts do not yet know how long a person is protected from getting sick again after recovering. Even if a person has already recovered from COVID-19, it's possible – although rare – they could become infected and sick again. If a person was treated for COVID-19 with antibodies or plasma, they should wait **90 days** before getting a vaccine. A person should talk to their doctor if they are unsure about the treatments they received or if they have questions about getting a vaccine.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?

Yes. The vaccination works by teaching the immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19 and protects a person from getting sick. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

Here are some credible resources to find information on the COVID-19 vaccines:

- [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)
- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [What Older Adults Should Know about the COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)

(Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)