

# Vaccinate or Wait?

Do you have concerns about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines? It is important to know what's myth and what's fact to make the right decision today.

## MYTHS

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccines were developed too quickly to be safe.



**MYTH:** The vaccines infect you with COVID-19.



**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccines will alter my DNA.



**MYTH:** You do not need to wear a mask if you get a vaccine.



**MYTH:** It doesn't matter if I get the vaccine because not everyone will get one.



**MYTH:** If I get the flu shot, I do not need the COVID-19 vaccine.



## FACTS

**FACT:** The COVID-19 vaccines have been subject to rigorous tests and safety standards and are proven to be safe and effective. They continue to be tested and monitored by the FDA, independent safety monitoring boards, and other health organizations.

**FACT:** The FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines, as well as those currently in development in the United States, do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, meaning that there is no risk of infection.

**FACT:** The vaccines do not change or interact with a person's DNA in any way. Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines are mRNA vaccines that work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity. J&J's vaccine is a viral vector vaccine that uses a harmless piece of the COVID-19 virus to trigger the body's immune system and fight infection.

**FACT:** While vaccinated individuals are protected against COVID-19, they may still be able to transmit the virus to others and are therefore advised to wear masks and follow other recommended prevention strategies.

**FACT:** The CDC is still learning how many people must be vaccinated against COVID-19 before most people can be considered protected (population immunity). However, getting a vaccine is the first step in stopping the spread and reaching population immunity, benefitting the public and world at large.

**FACT:** The flu shot does not protect you against COVID-19. There should be a minimum period of 14 days between getting a COVID-19 vaccine and any other immunization, such as the flu shot.

Visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn about vaccine eligibility, find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, and access more vaccination resources.

