



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™



COVID-19



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GET A VACCINE

Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

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Now that there are authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, accurate vaccine information is critical and can help stop common myths and rumors.

How do I know which COVID-19 vaccine information are accurate?

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. Before considering vaccine information on the Internet, check that the information comes from a credible source and is updated on a regular basis. Learn more about [finding credible vaccine information](#).

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Like all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects now and will continue to study them for many years.



Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

There are currently two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for use in the United States:

messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines

and a viral vector vaccine. Both

mRNA and viral vector COVID-19

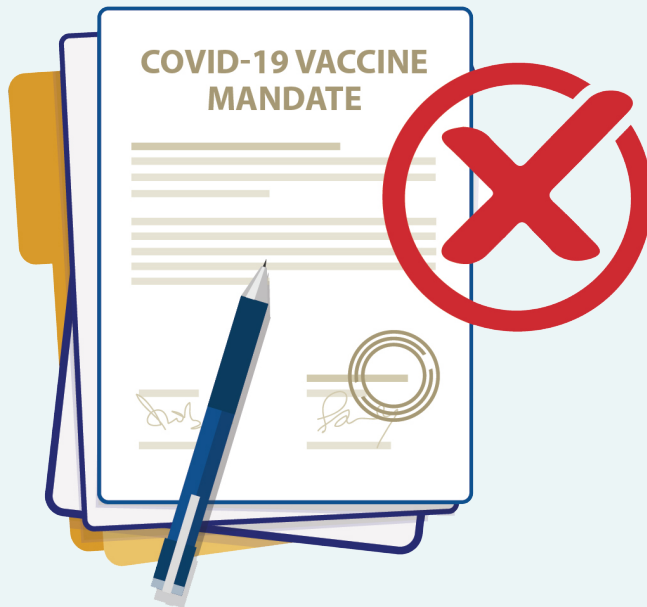
vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the genetic material in the vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. All COVID-19 vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.



Learn more about [how mRNA COVID-19 vaccines work](#).

Learn more about [how viral vector vaccines work](#).

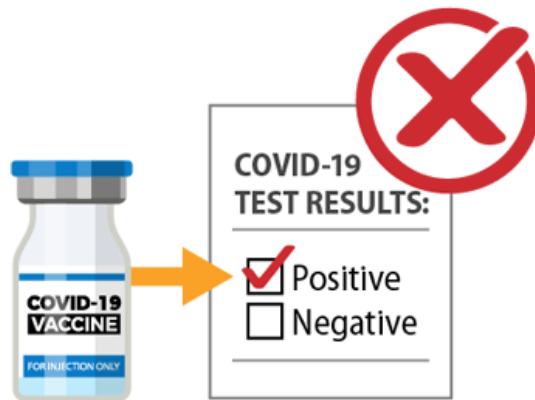
Can CDC mandate that I get a COVID-19 vaccine?



No. The federal government does not mandate (require) vaccination for people. Additionally, CDC does not maintain or monitor a person's vaccination records. Whether a state or local government or [employer](#), for example, can require or mandate COVID-19 vaccination is a matter of [state or other applicable law](#) [↗](#). Please contact your state government or employer if you have other questions about COVID-19 vaccination mandates.

After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a **current infection**. Neither can any of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States.



If your body develops an immune response to vaccination, which is the goal, you may test positive on some [antibody tests](#). Antibody tests indicate you had a **previous infection** and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

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

No. None of the authorized and recommended [COVID-19 vaccines](#) or [COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States](#) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#).

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Related Pages

- › [Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccination](#)
- › [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#), Division of Viral Diseases