



Get vaccinated.

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Help end COVID-19.

THE COVID-19 VACCINES: MYTH BUSTERS

“The vaccines haven’t been tested on people like me.”

The researchers who developed the vaccines made sure that many different types of people were included in the clinical trials to ensure that the vaccine was safe for everyone. This included people of various races, ages, and existing health conditions.

Take a look at the diversity breakdown for the three vaccines here:

Vaccine	Participants Who Identified as a Person of Color	Ages of Participants	Participants with at least one “at-risk” health condition
Pfizer	30%	12-65+	46%
Moderna	37%	18-65+	22%
Johnson & Johnson	35%	18-65+	41%

“The testing period was too fast. Researchers didn’t have enough time to ensure the vaccine was safe.”

It is true that the development process for the COVID-19 vaccines was faster than for many other vaccines. However, that does not mean that these vaccines are not safe. There were a few reasons why the vaccine developers were able to create the vaccine so quickly:

1. The COVID-19 virus is very similar to other viruses that scientists have been studying for years.
2. Vaccines that use mRNA (like Pfizer’s and Moderna’s vaccine) have also been studied for years and tested with other diseases, like the flu, rabies, and others.
3. Usually, it takes a long time for clinical trials to recruit enough patients for a successful study. For the COVID-19 vaccine trials, the researchers were able to get enough participants much more quickly than usual. The Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines all passed the three main phases of their clinical trials, with over 30,000 people each of their phase 3 trials.
4. The FDA was able to review the data from the trials more quickly, because they prioritized it over other initiatives



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“There are side effects to getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”

While many people feel arm pain when they receive the vaccine, and sometimes even headaches, fevers, and muscle pain, it is very uncommon to experience serious side effects, like anaphylaxis, from any of the COVID-19 vaccines. However, to make sure that those very few who do experience allergic reactions get timely care, vaccine administrators often ask anyone who receives the vaccine to be observed for 15 minutes after their shot.

There is no evidence of long-term side effects, including any effects on pregnancies or future fertility.

“People are getting sick even if they are vaccinated, so the vaccine must not work.”

The vaccines were developed to reduce the risk of the most serious effects of COVID-19: hospitalization and death. All three vaccines are very good at this. There are a few reasons why some who are vaccinated still get sick:

1. The vaccines are very protective against very severe disease. It is still possible to get sick from COVID-19 if you are vaccinated, but your illness is likely to be much less severe. It is still much less likely that you will get sick if you are vaccinated than if you are not.
2. While the vaccine is very effective, it is not 100% effective. Unfortunately, a very small number of people who are vaccinated may still get severely sick.
3. Even though the new variants, for example the Delta strain, can impact the effectiveness of the vaccines, the vaccines are still very protective against sickness, hospitalization, and death. While vaccinated people can still get COVID-19 and infect others, the majority of the Delta variant cases are among unvaccinated people.



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