



# FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

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## **FACT: COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT GIVE YOU COVID-19**

- None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- Although several different types of vaccines in development, the goal for each of them is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.



## **FACT: COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT CAUSE YOU TO TEST POSITIVE ON COVID-19 VIRAL TESTS**

- Vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States won't cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.
- If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests.



# **FACT: PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOTTEN SICK WITH COVID-19 MAY STILL BENEFIT FROM GETTING VACCINATED**

- Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.



# **FACT: GETTING VACCINATED CAN HELP PREVENT GETTING SICK WITH COVID-19**

- While many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness or they may even die.
- There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you are not at increased risk of severe complications. If you get sick, you also may spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick



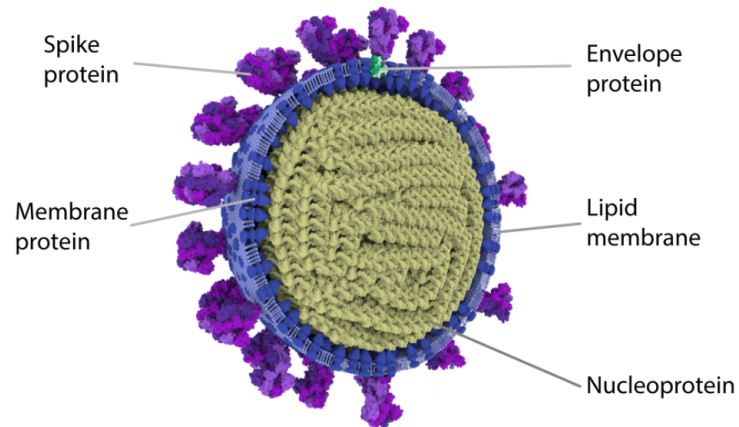
# **FACT: RECEIVING AN MRNA VACCINE WILL NOT ALTER YOUR DNA**

- mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid and can most easily be described as instructions for how to make a protein or even just a piece of a protein.
- mRNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA). The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enter the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA are kept. This means the mRNA does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.
- COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease.



# HOW mRNA VACCINES WORK

- contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus.
- After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the genetic material from the vaccine.



# HOW WERE COVID -19 VACCINE DEVELOPED SO FAST?

1. Scientist have been working on the technology (using mRNA) for decades because it was recognized as being an effective way to rapidly create vaccines.
2. No delays due to waiting for funding (guaranteed by governments)
3. Expedited review process by FDA (review as each piece is completed versus after everything is completed)
4. Vaccine production began before trials were completed





# PFIZER AND MODERNA VACCINES

- Only 2 COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in people ages 16 and older
- 2 doses (3-4 weeks apart)
- Common side effects:
  - Localized swelling, pain at injection site
  - Fatigue, headache, fever (mostly after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
- Efficacy: 94-95% effective in preventing severe disease from COVID-19
- **Not known** if vaccines prevent spread of COVID



# AS OF JANUARY 15, 2021

## US VACCINATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

People that Received the 1st Dose

12,279,180

Total Doses Distributed

31,161,075

CDC | Updated: Jan 15, 2021 as of 9:00am ET



# WHO GETS THE VACCINE FIRST

- Texas is in Phase 1 : (1A and 1B)



# PHASE 1B RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- People 65 years of age and older
- People 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
  - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
  - Solid organ transplantation
  - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher)
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus



# COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

- States differ on how they are prioritizing people experiencing homelessness
- Likely that people experiencing homelessness will be hesitant to get COVID-19 vaccine due to previous bad experiences and mistrust of the healthcare system as well as paranoia and mental illness
- Logistical challenges to getting 2 doses
- HHH has been approved as a vaccination site, but we have not received any vaccine yet



# FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Your best protection from COVID-19 will be a combination of getting a COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and washing your hands often. No one tool alone is going to stop the pandemic.



# QUESTIONS?

- Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

