FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

Fact: COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19

- None of the current COVID-19 vaccines in development in the U.S. use live virus that causes COVID-19.
- The goal of the vaccine is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The vaccine can sometimes cause symptoms, such as fever. The symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.
- It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity 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 get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Fact: COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests

- If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of the 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 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 mild illness, others may get a severe illness or 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 disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

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 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. Instead, COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease.

Fact: There are side effects with vaccines from your immune response

- There are side effects, but they are mild. In the trial, the vaccine was generally well-tolerated. The worst side effects were fatigue and headaches after the second dose. About 4 percent of people reported fatigue and 2 percent a headache. Other side effects were pain at the injection site and muscle pain. These are common reactions you would have with vaccination. Older adults reported fewer and milder side effects.

Source: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations=process.html