Debunking Myths about COVID-19 vaccines

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe due to how quickly it was developed.

**FACT:** The vaccines went through every step from the creation to testing that is mandated by the FDA to ensure safety and efficacy. 60,000 people participated in the initial trials and the vaccine passed through all appropriate channels, including review by an independent panel to ensure no bias in the evaluation of safety. Emergency Use Authorization approval requires the same steps taken in full-term clinical trials with just a consolidated timeline.

As mentioned previously, we have seen over 1 billion people receive vaccines which is an extraordinary number of people and many more than would be required to get FDA approval in the US. This should provide comfort as we have many more data points to provide confidence in safety and efficacy over the last 18 months.

**MYTH:** I have had COVID already so I do NOT need the vaccine.

**FACT:** Based on data in Israel, UK and USA, we know that prior infection does provide some protection. However, we now know that prior infection PLUS vaccine provides greater protection. This data confirms that just surviving the prior infection does not give you the greatest protection. This is more important now than before as that prior infection was of a different strain than the delta variant which is causing the most trouble and is a different version of the virus.

So, we will require vaccination regardless of prior infection.

**MYTH:** The vaccine will cause long-term side effects.

**FACT:** It is extraordinarily rare for a vaccine to cause long-term side effects years down the road as vaccines work to trigger your immune system to develop protection over a period of weeks. Typical side effects will occur around the time of injection but do not generally happen years later. When we do see delayed effects, they tend to happen within 2 months of vaccination. Additionally, we have seen pharmaceutical companies use this technology for the last decade without long-term complications which provides additional comfort.

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine isn’t safe and we don’t know what is in it.

**FACT:** We know the exact ingredients which were released by the FDA during approval. It is NOT a live virus. It does NOT have a microchip. It does NOT use aborted fetuses. There is NO impact on DNA. It does NOT cause infertility and is recommended by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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

**FACT:** The first COVID vaccines approved use messenger RNA technology. Messenger RNA instructs our cells in the body on how to make a protein that triggers your immune response. These vaccines actually work OUTSIDE of a cell’s nucleus (where DNA is kept). Human cells break down and get rid of mRNA after they use the instructions and has NO interaction with your DNA.

**MYTH:** There are several SEVERE side effects of the COVID vaccines.

**FACT:** There are short-term mild or moderate reactions that resolve without complications or injury. About 50% of people may develop systemic reactions such as fever, chills, headaches and fatigue that last a day or two. It is extraordinarily rare to get severe side effects from the vaccine and when any possible complication is identified, there is an investigation and would be a pause in usage as happened with J and J previously while they ensure safety of the vaccine.

At this point we know around 2.5-4 cases per million doses administered have suffered anaphylaxis which is on par with other vaccines on the market.

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to control us and has a microchip involved.

**FACT:** There is no vaccine microchip and the vaccine will not track people nor will it gather personal information. This myth came from discussion around digital certificates of vaccine records. This technology is not currently in use nor was it used in development.

**Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine:**

- You are 3.5 times/300% less likely to get the virus
- You are 8 times/800% less likely to get sick
- You are 25 times/2500% less likely to die