

# The Benefits of Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19

## You Can Get Together With Other Fully Vaccinated Friends And Family

### If you've been fully vaccinated, you can:

- Gather in a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age.
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness.
- *(Note: If there's unvaccinated people from more than one household, or an unvaccinated person has high-risk conditions, everyone should continue to wear a mask. And it's best to meet outside.)*



## You Can Help Move Us Closer To Ending The Pandemic

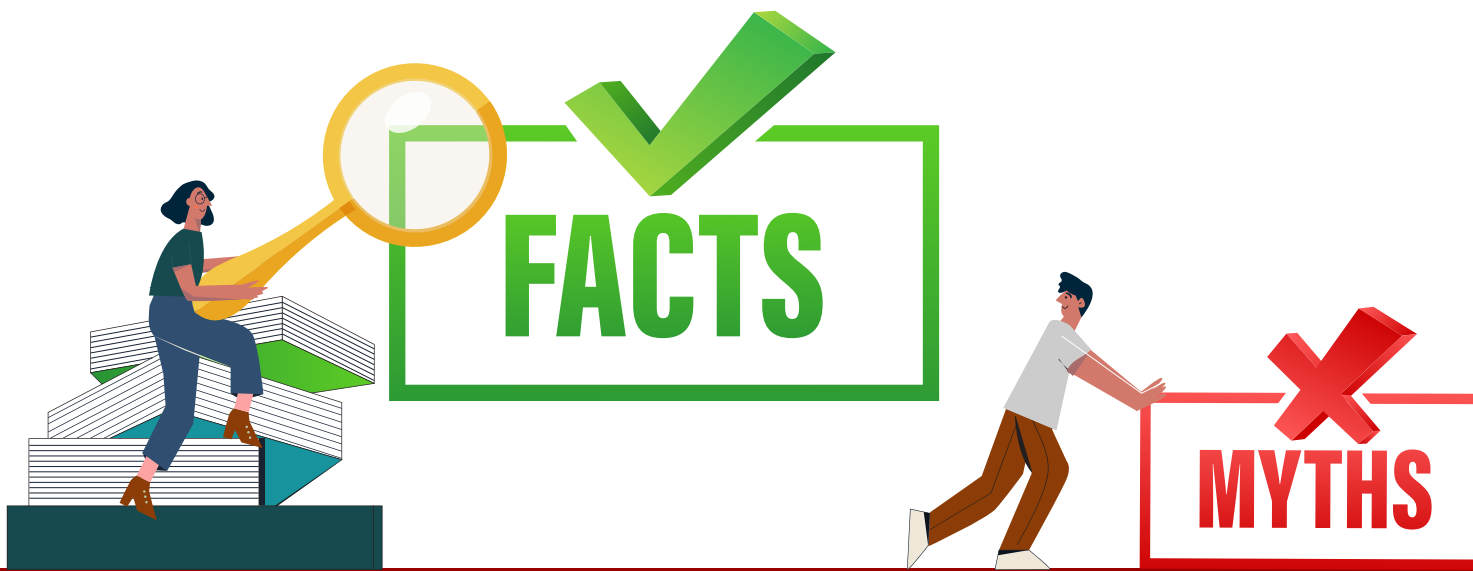


We are nearing the end of this marathon, so quitting early could lead to another setback by giving coronavirus variants room to spread.

Vaccinations cut down the ability of the virus to keep infecting people and mutate into vaccine-resistant strains.

## Join These Health Care Heroes And Get Vaccinated Today!





## Vax Facts: Myth Versus Fact

**MYTH:** The messenger RNA technology used to make the COVID-19 vaccine is brand new.

**FACT:** The mRNA technology behind the new coronavirus vaccines has been in development for almost two decades. Vaccine makers created the technology to help them respond quickly to a new pandemic illness, such as COVID-19.

**MYTH:** If I've already had COVID-19, I don't need a vaccine.

**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 occurs, people are advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine can affect women's fertility.

**FACT:** The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility. The truth is that the COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spike protein found on the coronavirus's surface. This "teaches" the body's immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it. Confusion arose when a false report surfaced on social media, saying that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another spike protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. The false report said that getting the COVID-19 vaccine would cause a woman's body to fight this different spike protein and affect her fertility. The two spike proteins are completely different and distinct.

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine enters your cells and changes your DNA.

**FACT:** The two COVID-19 vaccines available to us are designed to help your body's immune system fight the coronavirus. The messenger RNA from two of the first types of COVID-19 vaccines does enter cells, but not the nucleus of the cells where DNA resides. The mRNA does its job to cause the cell to make protein to stimulate the immune system, and then it quickly breaks down — without affecting your DNA.

**MYTH:** The J&J vaccine causes blood clots.

**FACT:** Reports of adverse events following the use of J&J/Janssen vaccine suggest an increased risk of a rare adverse event called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). Nearly all reports of this serious condition, which involves blood clots with low platelets, have been in adult women younger than 50 years old. As of April 23, 2021, the reports reviewed all occurred in women between 18 and 59 years old, with a median of 37 years. These reports represent a reporting rate of 7 such events per 1 million vaccinations among women 18 through 49 years old.

A review of all available data at this time shows that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks. However, women younger than 50 years old especially should be aware of the rare but increased risk of this adverse event and that there are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen.

Adapted from COVID-19 Myth Versus Fact, published by Johns Hopkins Medicine, with expertise from Gabor David Kellen MD and Lisa Lockerd Maragakis MD MPH.