

I'VE HEARD...

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

Let's set the record straight on rumors circulating about the COVID-19 vaccines.

[CHICAGO.GOV/COVIDVAX](https://chicago.gov/COVIDVAX)

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Source: Chicago Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Let's Talk About It!

I can't trust the COVID-19 vaccine because it was created in a rush.

1

COVID-19 vaccines involve new technology (called messenger RNA, or mRNA). While this is the first time mRNA is being widely used in a vaccine for the public, researchers have actually been working on this vaccine strategy for more than a decade. The vaccines have been tested and deemed safe.

The vaccine will give me COVID-19.

2

None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes the disease. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

I've already had COVID-19, I don't need a vaccine.

3

Re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, and the vaccine is recommended regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection.

COVID-19's survival rate is high, I don't need a vaccine to be protected.

4

While most people who get COVID-19 are able to recover, others who live through the disease develop severe complications – like damage to the lungs, heart, brain or other long-term health problems that experts are still working to understand. Getting vaccinated decreases your risk of getting very sick or hospitalized with COVID-19.

It's better to wait to be vaccinated, once more people have been given the shot.

5

The vaccines are safe, and our best hope for ending the COVID-19 pandemic. All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different races, ethnicities, and ages.

We don't know what is in these vaccines.

6

Both vaccines have published the ingredient lists. In addition to the COVID-19 mRNA that protects you against the virus, both vaccines contain lipids (fats) that help deliver the mRNA into your cells and other common ingredients that help maintain the pH and stability of the vaccine. Despite theories circulated on social media, they do not contain microchips or any form of tracking device.

After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, I will test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test.

7

This is not possible. However, if your body develops an immune response – the goal of vaccination – there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests.

COVID-19 vaccine will alter my DNA.

8

The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. The mRNA from the vaccine cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

I only need to get one COVID-19 vaccine dosage.

9

You need two shots/dosages in order for the COVID-19 vaccine to be the most effective. Depending on the specific vaccine you get, a second shot 3-4 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer.