COVID-19 Vaccines: Know the Facts

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.

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

Vaccines won’t cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

FACT: People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated.

At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection (natural immunity) varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long.

FACT: Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19.

There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get sick, you also may spread the 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 (messenger ribonucleic acid) 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).

Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.