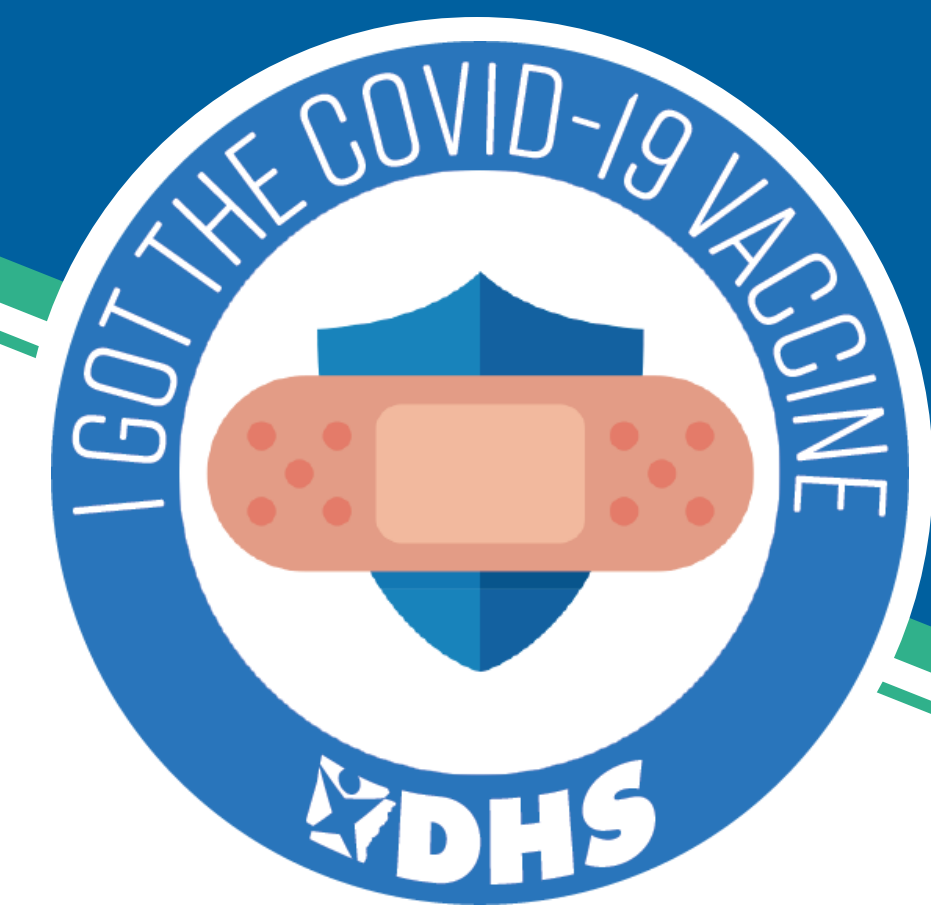


7 IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES



The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has given emergency authorization for two vaccines to protect against the virus that causes COVID-19, but a lot of rumors are going around. Let's look at the facts:

1 Getting the vaccine will not make you sick with COVID-19.

The authorized vaccinations do not have the live virus, so the vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. You may feel some pain at the injection site, a headache, fever, or tiredness in the few days after getting the vaccination. Any symptoms more serious than that are rare.

2 You still need to get vaccinated even if you have had COVID-19.

Reinfections have been reported in people who have had COVID-19, but the Centers for Disease Control says they remain rare. Still more information is needed and questions remain. Getting two doses of the vaccine has been shown to be 94-95% effective in protecting you from getting sick with the virus.

3 The vaccine will not change your DNA or genetic makeup.

The COVID-19 vaccines in use are Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines that cause your body's cells to make a needed protein, or antibody, so your immune system can be prepared to fight the virus. The mRNA never enters the nucleus of a cell where your DNA is kept, so it cannot change your DNA.

4 Getting the COVID-19 vaccine does not cause infertility.

The vaccines have not been linked with infertility for men or women. The rumor that the COVID-19 vaccine's antibodies target the placenta of pregnant mothers is false. In fact, there were 23 women who became pregnant after participating in the Pfizer clinical trial. Of those, only one person reported a negative pregnancy outcome - and that person did not get the vaccine but got the placebo instead.

5 Neither of the COVID-19 vaccines were developed using fetal tissue.

No cell lines that originated from fetal tissue obtained from an aborted baby were used at any stage of design, development, or production of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

6 Even if you get the vaccine, you still should wear a mask.

Getting the vaccine is another layer of protection in addition to the precautions in place. People who get the vaccine are protected but may still spread the virus. For the best protection against the virus until more of the population is vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask, wash your hands often, and avoid close contact with individuals outside your household.

7 You can still get the vaccine if you have seasonal allergies.

People who have normal seasonal allergies, and even food allergies like allergies to shellfish and peanuts, can get the COVID-19 vaccine. People who have had severe reactions to injectable medication or vaccines in the past should not get the COVID-19 vaccine at this time.

Don't be fooled by fiction! Learn more facts at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus



If someone you know is experiencing anxiety, stress, depression, or other emotional changes due to COVID-19, immediate help is available from our 24-hour Crisis Support Line at 1-833-993-2382. Learn more online at www.staypositivearkansas.com.