KNOW THE FACTS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

Everyone eligible to get vaccinated should do so as soon as possible. Vaccination is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccine development was accelerated without compromising safety.

The need for vaccines was immediate, so all efforts went into development. Final vaccine testing and manufacturing took place at the same time, and safety was a top priority. This allowed for quick turnaround for vaccine dissemination to the public once proven safe and effective. An explanation for how the process has been shortened is available on the US Department of Health and Human Service's website: https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/distribution/index.html.

FACT: It is not possible to contract COVID-19 disease from getting vaccinated.

None of the vaccines currently available in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. Vaccination with COVID-19 vaccine could cause side effects, such as fever and body aches, which are mild and simply a sign that the body is building immunity towards the virus. You are more likely to be seriously harmed by the virus than by the vaccine.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines do not contain pork or other animal products.

Vaccine ingredients vary by manufacturer, but none contain pork or other animal products, and all have been deemed halal, able to be used, by the National Muslim Task Force on COVID-19 and the National Black Muslim COVID Coalition, cited below. The Task Force and Coalition have also strongly encouraged safe community space and mosque use. The Task Force and Coalition emphasized that vaccination through Ramadan does not invalidate the fast.

https://imana.org/imana-backup/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NMTF-NBMCC-final-Ramadan-statement-v2-1.pdf

FACT: None of the COVID-19 vaccines available for use under EUA cause infertility.

Over 250 million doses of vaccine have been administered in the United States, with safety monitoring allowing for both patients and providers to report serious side effects. Results from these monitoring efforts reassure us that COVID-19 vaccines are not associated with infertility. Over 100,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated; to date, no adverse pregnancy side effects have been observed, including miscarriages. If there were a connection between vaccination and infertility, those who were naturally infected with COVID-19 would also experience infertility and no evidence supports that claim.

FACT: Pregnant women are encouraged to get vaccinated.

It is important to note that pregnant and nursing women are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect both themselves and their babies. Pregnant women are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 illness. More information is also available with this video, handout, and physician Q&A panel listed below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Ntx98ZxgMjo

https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/COVID%20Vaccine%20Page/COVID-19_Vaccine_Infertility_Handout.pdf.

https://youtu.be/r4iXKZiS-ck

FACT: Getting a COVID-19 vaccine does not make changes to DNA.

No vaccine available can alter DNA. The materials used in mRNA vaccines, Moderna and Pfizer, cannot enter into the cell nucleus, which is where the DNA is located. This alone makes genetic modification impossible. Additionally, RNA is not DNA. The RNA is not able to change itself into DNA and it is also unable to integrate into our DNA.

The mRNA only presents the information necessary to produce the virus proteins to stimulate an immune response and has a short life span of hours.

FACT: There are no separate vaccines given based on race/ethnicity.

Out of the three options available for use within the United States there is not one that has separate indication based on race or ethnicity. Vaccine trials involved a diverse range of participants to ensure that all trials were inclusive of various races and ethnicities, and vaccine effectiveness percentages includes data from these participants.

FACT: COVID-19 vaccines are distributed for free regardless of immigration or health insurance status.

COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot charge you directly for the vaccine or turn you away from receiving the vaccine. Providers can charge insurance for an administration fee, if you have insurance, but there is no out-of-pocket charges made to you and insurance is not required.

FACT: Vaccination offers protection for those who have had COVID-19.

It is important to get vaccinated, even if you have recovered from COVID-19 infection. Getting vaccinated acts as a booster against variants, and recent studies show that it may prevent transmission to others. Waiting 90 days after diagnosis to get vaccinated is an option, and anyone currently infected should wait to get vaccinated until illness has resolved and isolation is discontinued.

If you had COVID-19 and received monoclonal antibody treatment should wait 90 days to get the vaccine. If you have received a dose of the vaccine within this 90 day period, wait to have your second dose after the 90 day period is up. You will not have to restart your vaccine series.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination, visit health.nd.gov/

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