

April 7, 2021

Myths & Facts – COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

Many are becoming eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. It is critical for all residents to have accurate vaccine information to be able to make an informed decision regarding their health.



1. **Can a COVID-19 Vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?**

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

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

No. Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

3. **If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Learn more about why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected.

4. **Will a COVID-19 vaccination protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.

5. **Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

6. **Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?**

Yes. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

5 Vaccine Facts - Did You Know?

1. “Fully vaccinated” individuals are not required to quarantine if they are identified as a “close contact” and do not have symptoms
2. “Fully vaccinated” individuals may be exempt from travel restrictions

3. Routine testing for COVID-19 is critical for residents regardless of your vaccination status to continue to limit the spread
4. Free testing is available for Bedford residents and staff! To make an appointment, navigate to: <https://www.bedfordma.gov/home/news/free-covid-19-testing>
5. All residents, 16 and older, will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as of April 19, 2021

More detailed explanations of the above answers and additional vaccine information may be found on the CDC's website: [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#) and [Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines \(cdc.gov\)](#) . Additional information regarding COVID-19 may be found on the Bedford Health Department website: [Health Department | Bedford MA](#)