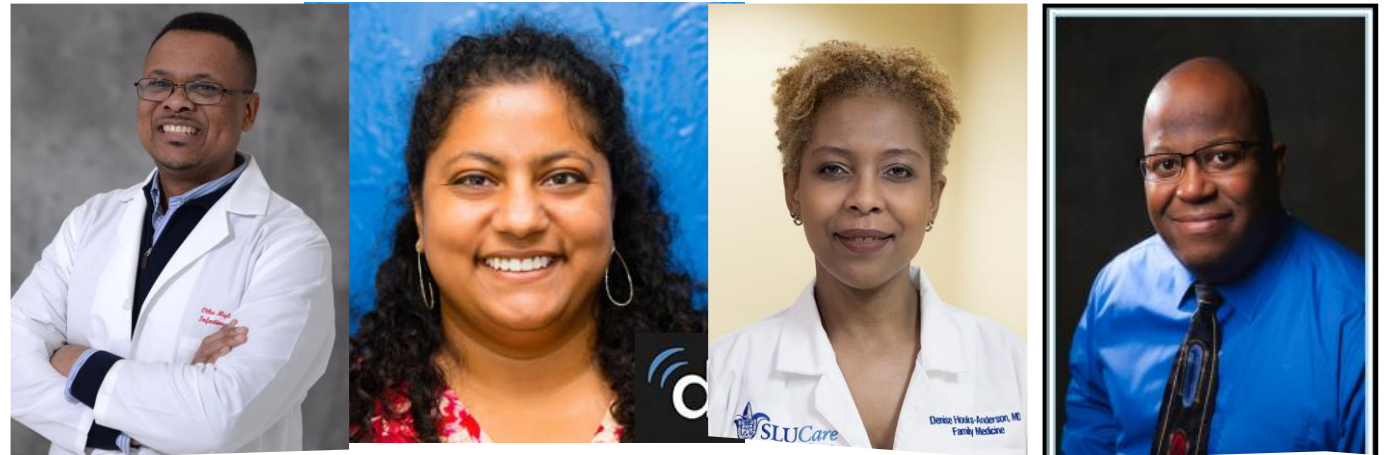




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# Building Public Confidence: Debunking COVID-19 Vaccine Myths

- **Otha Myles, M.D.**, Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases Specialist, Dr. Otha Myles and Associates, LLC
- **Jo-Ann Jose, M.D., MPH**, Division of Infectious Diseases, Allergy and Immunology, SLUCare
- **Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D.**, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine
- **Daniel Blash, Ph.D.**, Vice Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, School of Medicine



# Building Public Confidence: Debunking COVID-19 Vaccine Myths

- Introduction and Comments
- Gaining Trust and Bridging a Path
- Myths about COVID-19 Vaccine
- Q&A
- Closing Remarks



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MYTH 1: You can delay routine vaccinations until the pandemic is over.

You shouldn't postpone your vaccinations.

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MYTH 2: The COVID-19 vaccines were developed too fast to be safe.

The technology used to develop the new COVID-19 vaccines is not new.

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MYTH 3: There were not enough participants in the clinical trials to declare the vaccines safe.

Both COVID-19 vaccines enrolled tens of thousands of participants, many of whom were followed for two months after receiving the second dose, as is common with other vaccine trials.

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MYTH 4: I already had COVID-19,  
so I do not need the vaccine.

It's not clear how long a natural infection with COVID-19 provides immunity from the disease. There are reports of individuals becoming reinfected with the virus.

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# MYTH 5: COVID-19 vaccines were developed to deliver a microchip into my body.

There is not a microchip in the vaccine. This false rumor started after comments were made about digital vaccine records.

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# MYTH 6: I will not need to wear a mask after I am vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines protect you from getting seriously ill from COVID-19. But it's not known if the vaccine will keep you from being infected then transmitting the virus to others.

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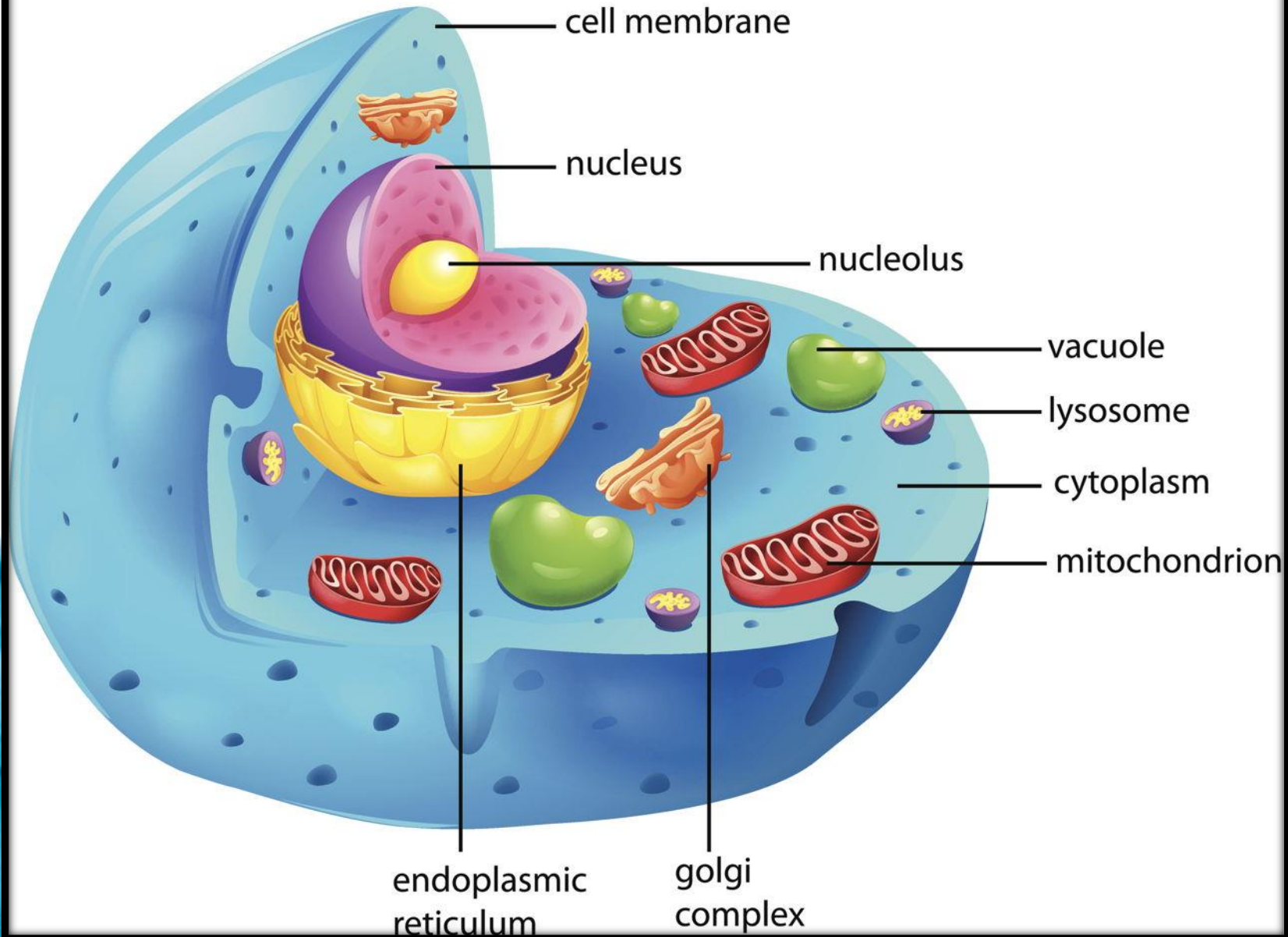
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# MYTH 7: The vaccine will alter my DNA.

This is not possible. Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines work in the cell's cytoplasm and never enter the cell nucleus, where the DNA, your genetic material, lives.

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# Anatomy of an Animal Cell





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# Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

All the COVID-19 vaccines being used have gone through rigorous studies to ensure they are as safe as possible. Systems that allow CDC to watch for safety issues are in place across the entire country.

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# What are the ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccine?

The active ingredient in both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is mRNA. The mRNA tells your cells how to make a protein from the coronavirus. Once your body knows how to make the protein, it can recognize COVID-19 and fight it off. The vaccines also contain lipids (fats), various salts, sucrose, and other stabilizing ingredients to help your body use the mRNA.

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# Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal tissue?

No, the COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any aborted fetal cells. However, Pfizer and Moderna did perform confirmation tests (to ensure the vaccines work) using fetal cell lines. Fetal cell lines are not the same as fetal tissue. Fetal cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory. They descend from cells taken from elective abortions in the 1970s and 1980s. No fetal cell lines were used to manufacture the vaccine, and they are not inside the injection you receive.

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# What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

You may have pain and swelling at the injection site and experience fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. Side effects may feel like flu and even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

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A close-up photograph of a person wearing blue nitrile gloves drawing vaccine from a vial into a syringe. The background is blurred, showing a white lab coat and a blurred face.

Is there a risk of severe allergic reaction if I receive the vaccine?

Serious problems from vaccination can happen, but they are rare.

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# What is the difference between Pfizer, Moderna, Astra Zeneca and Janssen COVID-19 vaccines?

Currently, Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19. As of Dec 28, 2020, large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials are in progress or being planned in the US for AstraZeneca, Janssen and Novavax.

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# Which lasts longer, immunity after getting COVID-19 or protection from COVID-19 vaccines?

We don't know how long natural immunity might last. Current evidence suggests that getting the virus again (reinfection) is uncommon in the 90 days after the first infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. We won't know how long immunity lasts after vaccination until we have more data on how well COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions.

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# Can you get Covid-19 once you get the vaccine?

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick.

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# Can you transmit Covid-19 to someone else after getting the vaccine?

We don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. CDC will continue to update as we learn more.

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# Do I need to wear a mask after I get the vaccine?

Yes. Not enough information is currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

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# How can people trust the vaccine in underprivileged communities with the history of being mistreated and tested on in the past?

The choice to be vaccinated for COVID-19 is a personal one. It's vital to have a relationship with your primary care physician and to ask questions and raise concerns until you have answers that allow you to make a good decision for yourself.

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# Where can I get a vaccine and when?

Visit [MOSTopsCOVID.com](https://mostopsCOVID.com) to find out when you are eligible to receive the vaccine and locations offering vaccinations. In the St. Louis area, selected health care systems include BJC Healthcare, SSM Health, Mercy St. Louis, St. Luke's Hospital and the St. Louis County Health Department.

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# WHEN CAN I GET VACCINATED?

The state of Missouri is currently working to vaccinate residents that are eligible under our phased approach.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Availability

Phase 1A	Phase 1B	Phase 2	Phase 3
Long-Term Care Facility Residents and Staff	Tier 1 First Responders & Emergency	Accelerating Economic Recovery	All Missouri Residents
Healthcare Workers (Patient Facing)	Tier 2 High Risk Individuals	Disproportionately Affected Populations	
EMS/EMT/Paramedics	Tier 3 Critical Infrastructure	Homeless	

## Phase 1B – Tier 1

Protecting those who keep us safe and help us during an emergency

Public Health Administrators and Staff  
Law Enforcement  
Fire Services  
Corrections  
Emergency Management  
Public Works  
Emergency Services

**Tier 1**

## Phase 1B – Tier 2

Protecting those who are at increased risk for severe illness

Anyone 65 and older  
Any adults with:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- COPD
- Heart Conditions
- Weakened immune system due to organ transplant
- Severe obesity (BMI >40)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
- Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome

**Tier 2**

## Phase 1B – Tier 3

Protecting those who keep the essential functions of society running

Education (K-12)  
Childcare  
Communications Infrastructure  
Dams Sector  
Energy Sector  
Food & Agriculture Sector 1  
Government  
Information Technology  
Nuclear Reactor Sector  
Transportation Systems  
Water and Wastewater Systems

**Tier 3**



# Resources

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) - [familydoctor.org](http://familydoctor.org)

BJC Healthcare – [BJC.org](http://BJC.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

Illinois Department of Public Health - [dph.illinois.gov](http://dph.illinois.gov)

Mercy – [Mercy.net](http://Mercy.net) or 1-833-364-6777

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services - [health.mo.gov](http://health.mo.gov)

National Institutes for Health (NIH) - [nih.gov](http://nih.gov)

National Medical Association (NMA) - [nmanet.org](http://nmanet.org)

*SLUCare* Physician Group – [SLUCare.edu](http://SLUCare.edu)

SSM Health – [SSMHealth.com](http://SSMHealth.com)

St. Louis City Department of Health - [stlouis-mo.gov](http://stlouis-mo.gov)

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A recording of this webinar will be available on the News and Events page of our website.

**Building Public Confidence:  
Debunking the COVID-19 Vaccine Myths 2.0**  
Tue, Mar 16 – 4:30-5:30pm  
Registration will be posted on our website.



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Questions: [ODEI@health.slu.edu](mailto:ODEI@health.slu.edu)