COVID-19 Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No.

- **The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. It does not have any of the virus inside it (not even a weakened or dead virus).**

- **If you have flu-like symptoms after getting vaccinated, it is likely your immune system is "gearing up" to fight what it thinks is the virus. It's really fighting a protein our cells have built (the vaccine tells our cells to make harmless proteins similar to a Coronavirus protein).**

- Getting vaccinated will not make you test positive for COVID-19 because getting the vaccine is not the same as having the virus.

- You may test positive for antibodies after getting vaccinated. This does not mean the vaccine gave you the virus. It shows that the vaccine is working; it's activated your immune system to recognize the Coronavirus protein.

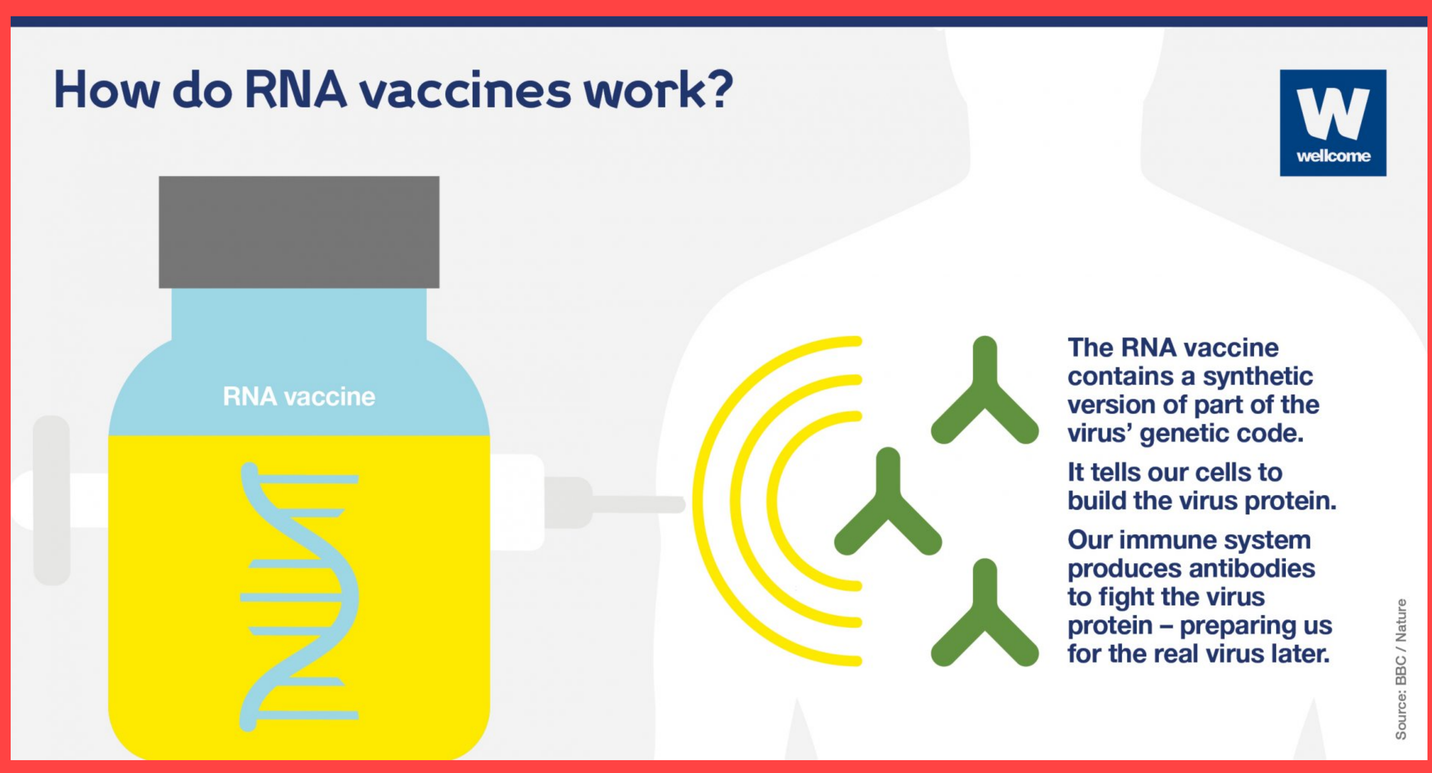
Source: Can the COVID vaccine give you the virus? | Miami Herald

Can the vaccine change my DNA?

No.

- **The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. both use Messenger RNA (mRNA) technology.**

- **mRNA never touches our DNA so can't affect your genes. It just borrows some of our cells' tools. Then, they harmlessly break down; there are no preservatives in the vaccine, so it does not stay in your system for long.**



Source: Seven vital questions about the RNA Covid-19 vaccines emerging from clinical trials | News | Wellcome

UIC PUBLIC HEALTH
Collaboratory for Health Justice

COVID-19 Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

How did they develop this vaccine so fast?

Many reasons.

- **There are other diseases in the Coronavirus "family" (like the common cold, SARS, MERS). Scientists have studied Coronaviruses for over 50 years.**
- **This vaccine was developed on the foundation of previous vaccine development work. These reasons also helped.**

- A sense of urgency prompted global cooperation to research and distribute the vaccine.
- mRNA technology simplifies production.
- Institutions provided or reallocated funding and resources to support development.
- Clinical trials started quickly because there were so many volunteers.

Source: COVID-19 vaccine: How was it developed so fast? (medicalnewstoday.com)

Am I wrong to ask these questions?

No.

- **It's always good to ask questions when it comes to your health and the health of your loved ones!**
- **Past harms and ongoing racism are not forgotten, and you might be understandably skeptical.**
- **Here are 2 recent discussions addressing these concerns and frequently asked questions.**

- Q&A: Latino Communities And The COVID-19 Vaccines in Chicago
- BlackDoctor.org - Making It Plain: What Black America Needs to Know About COVID-19 and Vaccines

For the latest info, visit Chicago Dept. of Public Health

UIC PUBLIC HEALTH
Collaboratory for Health Justice