

## ADDRESSING COMMON HESITATIONS

**#1** I am worried I will have an **allergic reaction** to the **COVID-19 vaccine**.

- Allergic reactions to the approved vaccines are very rare.
- Allergists have been carefully monitoring the vaccine's safety over several months.
- People who have had a severe allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol, one ingredient in the vaccine, should be concerned about an allergic reaction and should talk to their doctor.
- People with severe allergies to foods, certain oral medications, latex, bee stings, or venom can still safely receive COVID-19 vaccines.
- If an allergic reaction does occur, early symptoms can be observed during the 15 minute waiting period and will be rapidly treated by a health care provider.

SOURCE: [Massachusetts General Hospital](#)

**#2** I am worried the vaccine will **make me infertile** or **harm my future children**.

- The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility or harm future children.
- Individuals who received the vaccine during clinical trials and during public vaccination efforts have gone on to successfully become pregnant.
- Over 100,000 pregnant people have received the vaccine, with no related complications. Babies born to those vaccinated during pregnancy are protected from COVID-19 for a time after birth.
- Researchers are interested in learning whether an altered episode of menstruation is a possible response to vaccination; many things, including a flu, cold, stress or exercise can temporarily change menstruation but do not harm fertility.
- Getting sick with COVID-19 can potentially have a serious impact on pregnancy and women's health, so it is especially important for those pregnant or considering pregnancy be protected.

SOURCE: [Johns Hopkins Medicine, The Conversation: Between Us, About Us.](#)

**#3** I am worried the vaccine was **made too fast**.

- The messenger RNA technology used in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines has been in development for 12 years.
- The COVID-19 vaccines were developed with the same rigor as other vaccines.
- Emergency authorization for the vaccines was essential, but no steps in their safety testing were cut. Instead, many manufacturing preparation steps were performed at the same time as regular safety testing, which is more costly to companies but saves time.

SOURCE: [The Conversation: Between Us, About Us.](#)

**#4** I am worried the vaccine is not safe for me because there were **no people of color** in the trials.

- Black and brown people were included in the clinical trials.
- About 10% of all study participants for the Pfizer and Moderna trials were Black/African American, and 13% of study participants for Johnson & Johnson were Black/African American.
- More than 7 million people identifying as Black/African American and more than 10 million people identifying as Hispanic/Latinx have been fully vaccinated in the US.

SOURCE: [Johns Hopkins Medicine, CDC vaccination demographic](#)

## ADDRESSING COMMON HESITATIONS

**#5 I am worried the vaccine will make my chronic *condition* **Worse.****

- Underlying chronic conditions put you at greater risk for contracting severe COVID-19 illness.
- It is safe for people with most chronic conditions to get the vaccine, including diabetes, chronic kidney and lung disease, heart conditions, obesity, smoking.
- People with various underlying conditions were included in clinical trials and many have received the vaccine. Data are still being collected, but no safety concerns have been identified.
- Discussing your concerns with a health care provider you trust is a good way to get advice about your specific health situation.

SOURCE: [CDC Medical Conditions](#), [CDC Underlying Conditions](#)

**#6 I am worried that the vaccine was *developed using fetal tissue.***

- The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were not developed using fetal or embryonic tissue.
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain mRNA and other, normal vaccine ingredients, such as fats (which protect the mRNA), salts, as well as a small amount of sugar.

SOURCE: [Johns Hopkins Medicine](#)

**#7 I am worried the vaccine will *interfere with my medicines.***

- The vaccines work on your immune system, to teach your body to fight future infections. Most medications you take work in other areas of your body.
- For example, statins that you take to keep cholesterol in control interrupt cholesterol production, but don't have anything to do with your immune system.
- The exception to this is immunosuppressive drugs, like cancer chemotherapies. These medications could make the vaccine less effective, but you should still get the vaccine for some degree of protection.

SOURCE: [AARP Health](#)

**#8 I am worried that the vaccine *contains a microchip.***

- There are no microchips inside the vaccines.
- This is a myth that has circulated on social media but is based in fear, not evidence.
- We do not have the technology developed to deliver something as large as a microchip through a small vaccine syringe. This is not possible. If it were possible, then dogs and cats receiving microchips would get them through a tiny vaccine syringe, rather than the giant injectors currently used.

SOURCE: [NYT Daily Podcast](#), [Johns Hopkins Medicine](#)