

KNOW THE FACTS: COVID-19 VACCINES

COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT GIVE YOU COVID-19

None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. The goal of vaccination is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible to get COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT CAUSE YOU TO TEST POSITIVE ON COVID-19 VIRAL TESTS

The vaccines we expect to receive won't cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests, like the PCR or Antigen tests used for diagnosis of COVID-19.

If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOTTEN SICK WITH COVID-19 MAY STILL BENEFIT FROM GETTING VACCINATED

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long.

We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works.

GETTING VACCINATED CAN HELP PREVENT GETTING SICK WITH COVID-19

While many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness or even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you are not at increased risk of severe complications. If you get sick, you also may spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

RECEIVING AN MRNA VACCINE WILL NOT ALTER YOUR DNA

mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid and can most easily be described as instructions for how to make a protein or even just a piece of a protein. mRNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA). The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA are kept. This means the mRNA does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>.

Stayed tuned for upcoming updates about Orlando Health's COVID-19 vaccine program.