

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 22, 2020
Issue 7

New Perspective

The recent news about the COVID-19 vaccines has us excited about the future. We're looking forward to providing as much information about how this will impact our residents and team members. To keep you well informed, every couple days over the coming weeks, you can expect to receive an issue of Vaccine News You Can Use from us. We'll be sharing the latest vaccine news and updates, answering your questions, and dispelling myths and rumors about the vaccines. We'll also be sending around letters, videos, tips, and answers to frequently asked questions as we orchestrate vaccination for our residents and team members.

Get the vaccine—our best shot at getting back to normal.

THE HEADLINE

Dispelling the myths and rumors around the COVID-19 vaccines.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Does the vaccine contain live COVID-19 virus?

- No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development or being used in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19.

Does the vaccine contain aborted fetal tissue?

- No. This is false. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were not created with fetal tissue, nor do they require fetal cell cultures when in the production process.
- The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain fetal tissue.

Does the vaccine contain a tracking device?

- No. There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather information into a database. This myth started after comments made by Bill Gates about a digital certificate of vaccine records—like an app for your phone that has a code that could let you board a flight. The technology he was referencing is not a microchip, has not been implemented in any manner, and is not tied to the development, testing, or distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Will the vaccine change my DNA?

- No. mRNA isn't the same as DNA, and it can't combine with our DNA to change our genetic code.
- 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 is kept. This means it 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) from disease.
- Genetic information flows mostly in one direction, from the DNA to RNA to the protein. In fact, mRNA is broken down by cells in the body after 48 hours.
- The role of the messenger RNA is basically to give instructions to make protein. And then the immune system actually develops protection. But RNA cannot integrate into the human genome, it actually never gets into the human DNA, because our genetic material is DNA, not RNA.

WHAT'S IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue we send of Vaccine News You Can Use will answer the question "I'm getting vaccinated—now what?" by addressing:

- Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others after receiving the vaccine?
- How long will the vaccine immunity last?
- How often will the vaccine be needed?
- Once I get the vaccine, can I still spread the virus to susceptible people?
- Once I've been vaccinated, am I exempt from state lockdown restrictions?

If you have questions about Vaccine News You Can Use, please reach out to your executive director.