

The logo features a central dark blue circle with the letters 'UIC' in light blue. This circle is surrounded by a yellow ring, which is further enclosed by a red ring. Four thick lines radiate from the center: a yellow line pointing up and to the right, a red line pointing up and to the left, a yellow line pointing down, and a red line pointing down and to the right. The background is a solid light blue.

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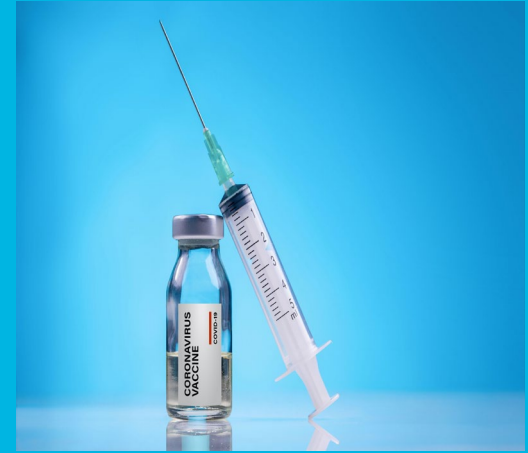
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# COVID-19 Vaccinations: Where We Are and What We've Learned



Presented by:

Charles McPherson, PharmD

Clinical Assistant Professor, UIC College of Pharmacy  
and

Brenikki Floyd, PhD, MPH

Clinical Assistant Professor, UIC School of Public Health

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# Overview

- COVID-19 Vaccine Impact
- Vaccine Hesitancy vs Deliberation
- Misinformation and Myths
- UIC COVID-19 Street Outreach Program

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# COVID-19 Vaccine Impact



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# COVID-19 Vaccine Impact

- Reduces your risk of infection
- Protects against severe illness
- As more of the population is vaccinated, the odds of getting the disease is reduced due to herd immunity
- Protects people around you, particularly people at increase risk of severe illness from COVID-19

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# Older Adults and COVID-19

**8** out of **10** COVID-19 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older.



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# Risk increases with age, with older adults at highest risk

## Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Age Group

Rate compared to 5-17-years old <sup>1</sup>	0-4 years old	5-17 years old	18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-64 years old	65-74 years old	75-84 years old	85+ years old
Cases <sup>2</sup>	<1x	Reference group	2x	2x	2x	2x	1x	1x	2x
Hospitalization <sup>3</sup>	2x	Reference group	6x	10x	15x	25x	40x	65x	95x
Death <sup>4</sup>	1x	Reference group	10x	45x	130x	440x	1300x	3200x	8700x

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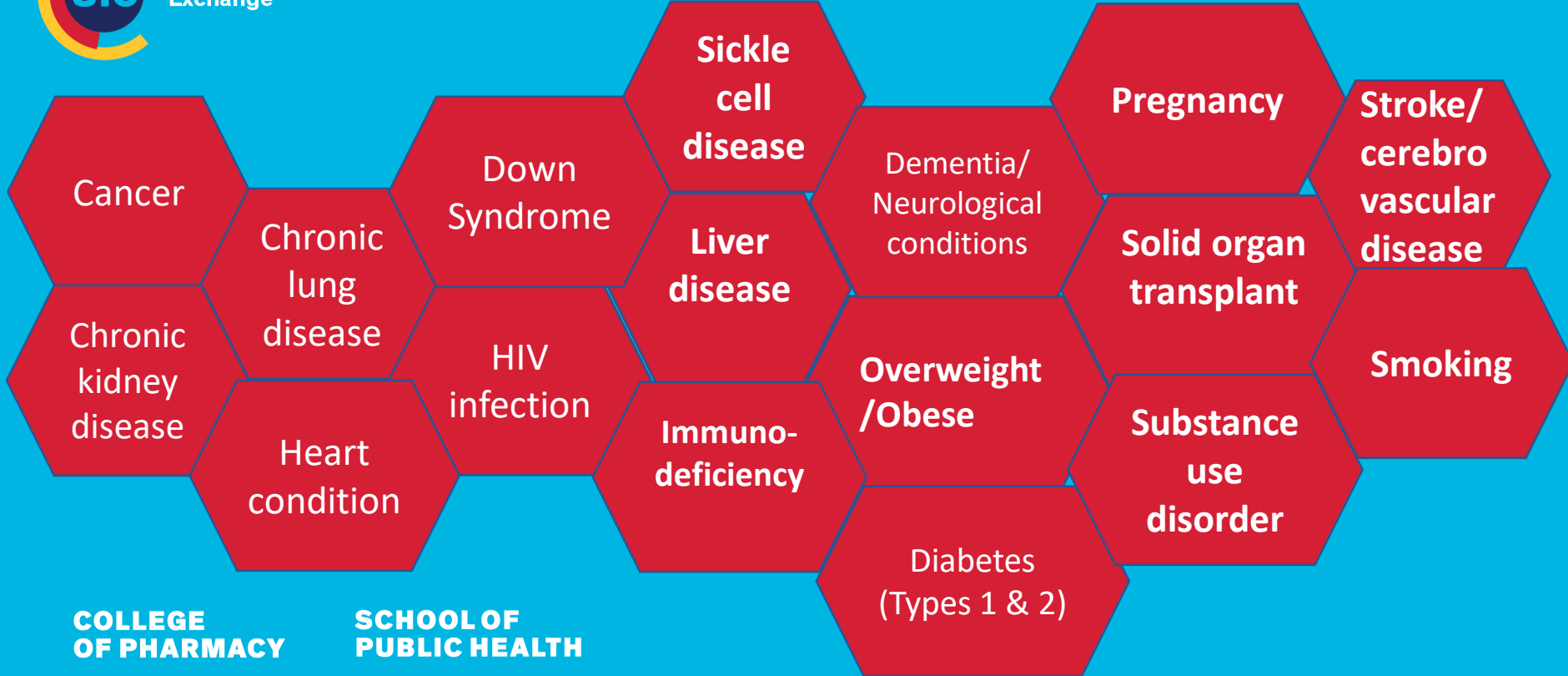
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# Protects people with certain medical conditions



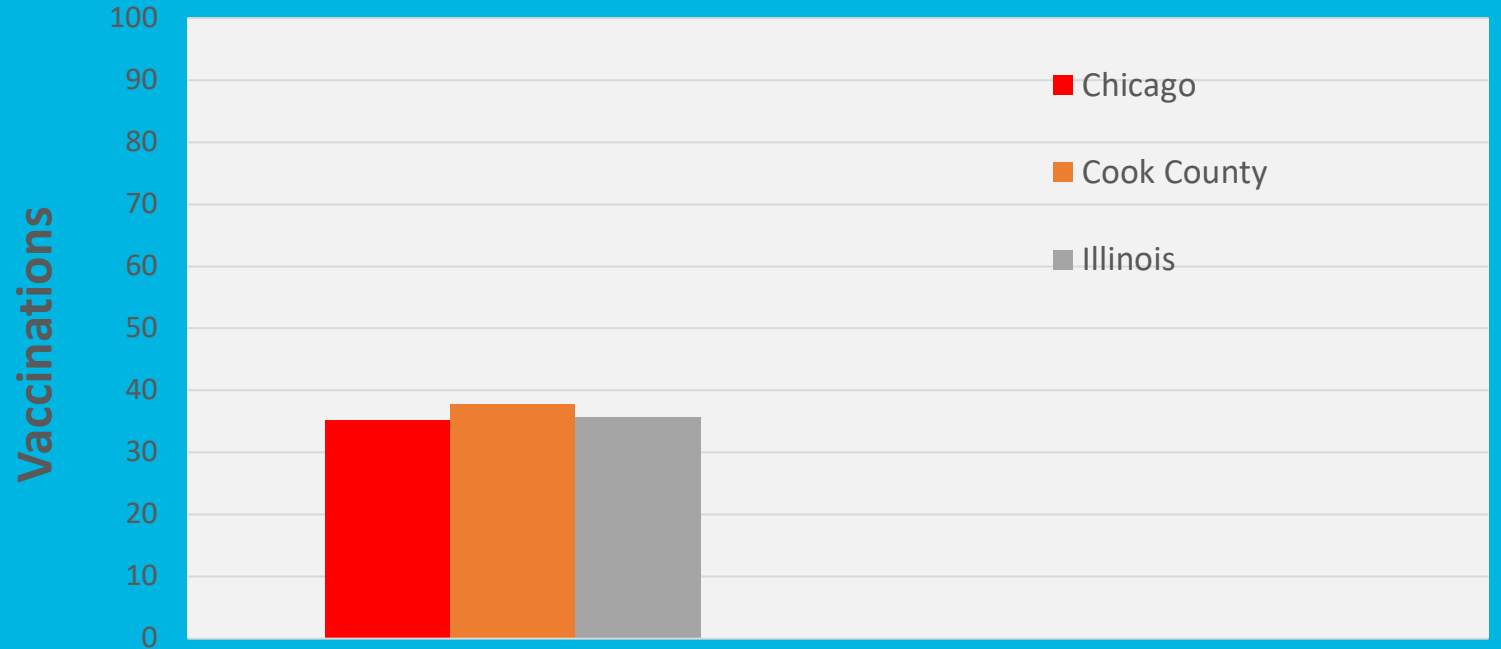
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## Percent of population fully vaccinated



Illinois Department of Public Health, 5 May 2021

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# Health Justice and COVID-19

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Image: HealthLeadersmedia.com



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# Health Equity

- Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain their full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”
- Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.

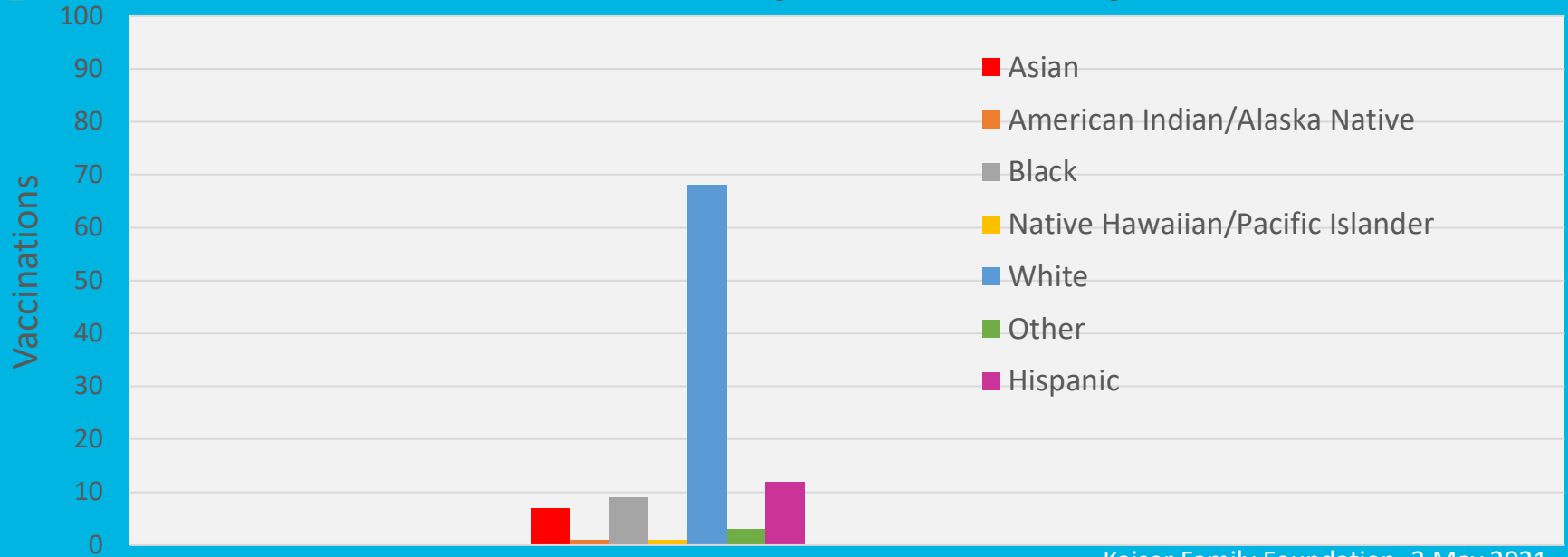
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## COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity - Illinois



Kaiser Family Foundation, 3 May 2021

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# Vaccine Hesitancy?

“Vaccine hesitancy” means the reluctance or unwillingness to be vaccinated or have one’s children vaccinated against a disease, even if proven safe and effective.

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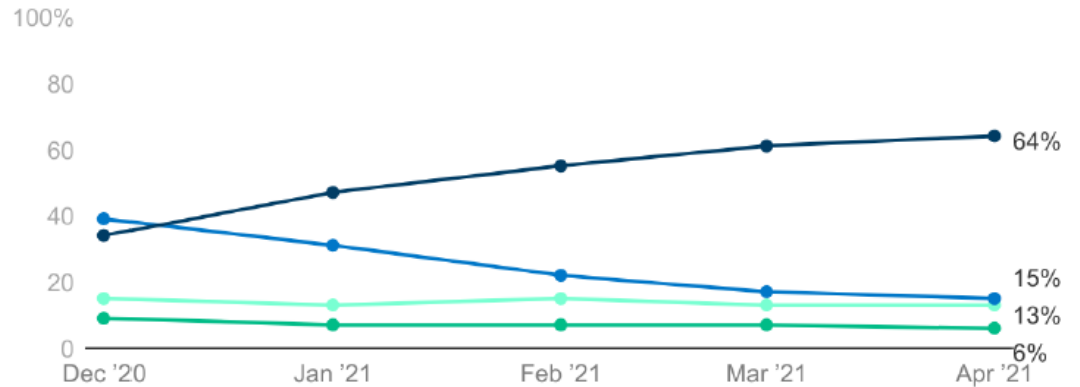
Figure 2

## Increase In COVID-19 Vaccine Enthusiasm Slows Across Racial And Ethnic Groups

Click on the buttons below to see the share of each demographic group by vaccination intentions:

**Total** Black adults Hispanic adults White adults

— Already gotten/As soon as possible — Wait and see — Only if required — Definitely not



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.  
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor

[KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor](#)



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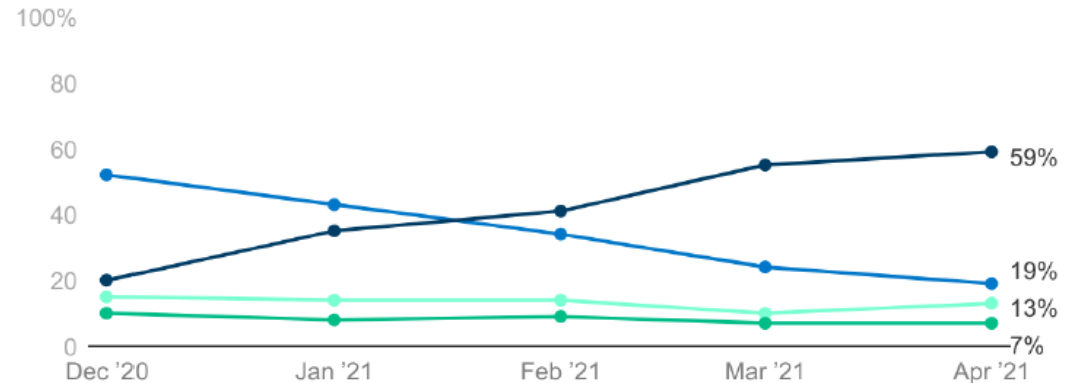
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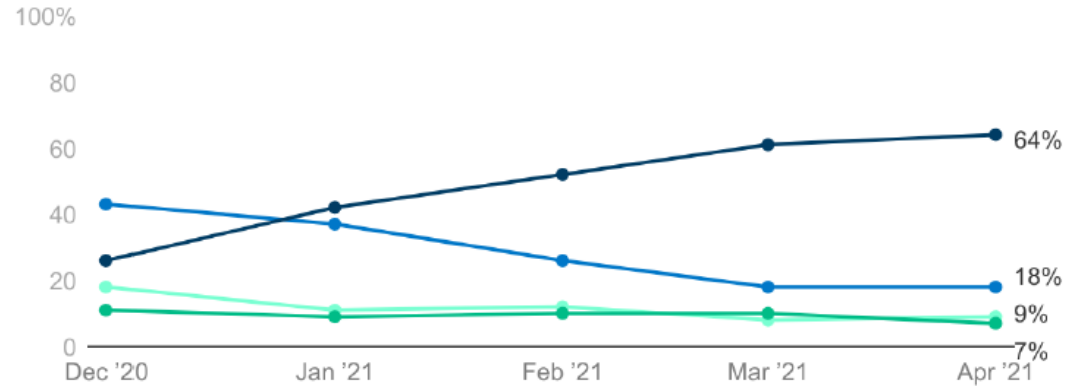
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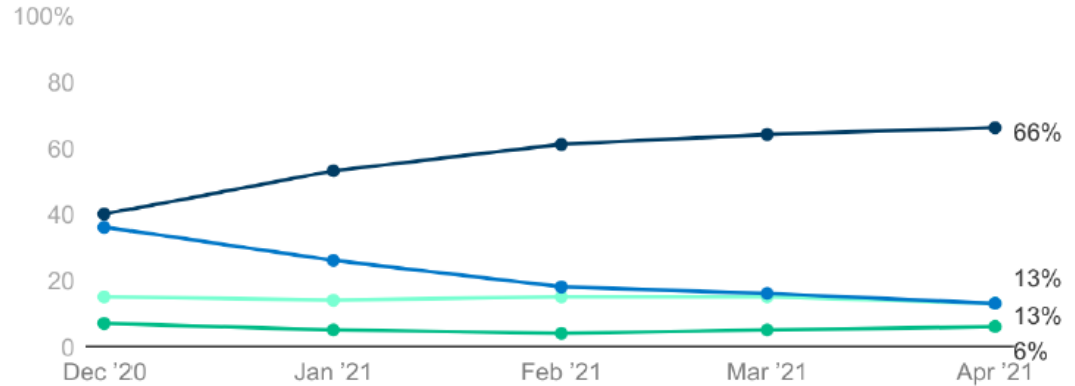
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[KFF COVID-19  
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# Vaccine hesitancy or deliberation?

Table 1: Top reasons why individuals have not tried to get a COVID-19 Vaccine appointment by vaccination intention (Open-end)

As soon as possible		Wait and see		Only if required	
Busy/didn't have time/schedule conflict	14%	Want to wait until more people have gotten it	23%	Don't want it/need it (general)	26%
Can't take time off work/conflicts with work hours	12%	Concerned about safety and/or side effects	14%	Concerned about safety and/or side effects	10%
Just haven't gotten around to it	9%	Vaccine is too new/not enough research	9%	Vaccine is too new/not enough research	6%
Don't have proper documentation/not sure if eligible	8%	Don't want it/need it (general)	8%	Already had COVID	5%
Lack of information about how to get the vaccine	7%	Waiting for medical reason	6%	Don't have proper documentation/not sure if eligible	4%



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# COVID-19 Vaccine Equity

- Age minimums for COVID vaccination
- Appointment scheduling
- Online-only sign-ups
- Poor internet access
- Language barriers
- Proof-of-eligibility requirements
- Location of vaccination sites
- Transportation
- Other planning and access issues



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# Infodemic

- an overabundance of information—some accurate and some not—that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it

POLICY & ETHICS | OPINION

## **COVID Misinformation Is Killing People**

This “infodemic” has to stop

By Amir Bagherpour, Ali Nouri on October 11, 2020

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WHO, 2020



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# COVID-19: Misinformation vs Disinformation

- (Mis)information: a lack of a full understanding of the virus
- Disinformation: deliberately spreading false or misleading information in an effort to influence public opinion or deceive
  - Biased information
  - Manipulated narrative/facts
  - Propaganda
  - Fake news



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# mRNA VACCINE MYTHs

## MYTH

"The vaccine was developed too fast!"

## FACT ✓



We've only known slow vaccine development. A lot of time is wasted between research stages. Global funding for COVID vaccines allowed for huge, well-run trials. mRNA vaccines are also much faster to make than traditional vaccines.

## MYTH

"mRNA vaccines change your DNA!"

## FACT ✓



mRNA is simply a message that the body reads. It cannot change your DNA or your genes. Think of this one like a wanted poster for COVID-19. Now your body knows what it looks like! The wanted poster degrades quickly, but your body remembers what to look for.

## MYTH

"mRNA vaccines have dangerous ingredients!"

## FACT ✓



mRNA vaccines are free of preservatives and only contain the mRNA, a fatty coating layer to protect the mRNA, PEG (*polyethylene glycol*), and a combination of salts, sugar, and water. There are no blood products or fetal cells.

## MYTH

"It's not safe until we get more long-term data."

## FACT ✓



Millions have been vaccinated. Vaccine side effects occur within 6 weeks. After that, the vaccine is gone and so is your initial immune system response. Clinical trials showed us the vaccines are safe, and now we want long-term data to know how long the vaccine protects for.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Myths



**Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccine can cause sterilization.



**Fact:** There's no evidence to support sterilization as a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information visit [healthonegon.org/coronavirus](http://healthonegon.org/coronavirus) or call 211



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## COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS



**MYTH:** THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE ARE WORSE THAN THE SIDE EFFECTS OF GETTING COVID.



**FACT:** WHILE COVID-19 CAN BE MILD, IT CAN ALSO BE VERY SEVERE OR EVEN FATAL. THE COVID-19 VACCINE CAN CAUSE PAIN AT THE INJECTION SITE, HEADACHE AND MUSCLE ACHES. THESE SIDE EFFECTS APPEAR TO BE MORE SEVERE THAN WITH MOST VACCINE BUT RESOLVE IN A DAY OR TWO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HEALTHOREGON.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://healthoregon.org/coronavirus)

#7

## COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS



**MYTH:** MRNA VACCINES CAN ALTER YOUR DNA.



**FACT:** MESSENGER RNA INJECTED INTO YOUR BODY WILL NOT INTERACT WITH OR AFFECT YOUR CELL'S DNA. MESSENGER RNA VACCINES WORK BY TEACHING CELLS IN THE BODY HOW TO MAKE A PROTEIN THAT TRIGGERS AN IMMUNE RESPONSE, ACCORDING TO THE CDC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [HEALTHOREGON.ORG/CORONAVIRUS](https://healthoregon.org/coronavirus)



## MYTH

FALSE

**I HAVE ALLERGIES TO EGGS, NUTS AND/OR BEE STINGS SO I SHOULDN'T GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE.**

You can get the vaccine even if you have severe allergies. All people wait 15-30 minutes after getting the vaccine to observe for reactions. You can't get the vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine or the ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine. These ingredients include polyethylene glycol or polysorbate.



FACT

## MYTH

FALSE

**I WON'T NEED TO WEAR A MASK OR SOCIALLY DISTANCE AFTER I GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19.**

It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. You still need to do all the other things to prevent COVID-19 infection. Keep your mask on. Continue to stay distanced from people. Keep washing your hands.



FACT

## MYTH

FALSE

**THERE ARE SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS TO THE COVID-19 VACCINES.**

There are very mild side effects that go away quickly. They include headaches, chills, fatigue or muscle pain. These side effects last for a day or two. These side effects show your immune system is responding to the vaccine.



**FACT**

## MYTH

FALSE

**I ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND I RECOVERED, I DON'T NEED TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE.**

There is a chance you can get re-infected with COVID-19. Even if you already had a COVID-19 infection. After getting COVID-19, the body does get immune to it, but it is not clear how long that lasts. So, the vaccine is still needed.



**FACT**



WHAT ARE SOME MYTHS YOU'VE HEARD  
ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?



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# UIC COVID-19 Street Outreach Program

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- Street Outreach Supervisors – 4
- Street Outreach Specialists – 10

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- Primary Goal: to provide temporary employment relief to individuals whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic
- Secondary Goal: to enhance community members' health and well-being through direct outreach and the provision of the information and protection needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection among individuals in vulnerable communities in Chicago
- Partnership with North American Job Center at Truman College
- Funded by Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership

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- Deliverance Temple of the Apostolic Faith
- Inspiration Kitchen
- CORE Chicago
- UI Health/Mile Square and Protect Chicago Plus
  - Englewood Vaccination High Impact Collaboration
  - Humboldt Park



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# What are our communities saying...

Not FDA  
approved?

I am the  
cure!

Mark of  
the beast

Zombie

God got me

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# Health Justice and COVID-19

It is critical that we ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and accurate information in a timely manner.

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**THANK YOU!**

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