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YOUR PART.

MYTHS BUSTED:

LIFE AFTER BEING FULLY VACCINATED

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from hospitalization and death. Based on what we know about COVID-19 vaccines, people who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

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COVID-19

REMEMBER: After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, keep taking precautions in public places to help prevent the spread of the disease, like wearing a mask, staying six feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds.

MYTH:

You are considered fully vaccinated immediately after receiving your second dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.

FACT:

You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. If it has been less than 2 weeks since your final shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected.

MYTH:

You are considered fully vaccinated immediately after receiving your single dose of a COVID-19 viral vector vaccine.

FACT:

You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving your single dose of a COVID-19 viral vector vaccine, like the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

MYTH

You never have to wear a mask again once you are vaccinated.

FACT:

Even after vaccination, it is vital to socially distance and take precautions, such as wearing a mask around those who have not been fully vaccinated or have an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

MYTH:

If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you need to quarantine and stay away from others even after you've been vaccinated.

FACT:

If you've been fully vaccinated and come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms. However, if you're fully vaccinated and live in a group setting (like a correctional facility or group home) and come into contact someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

MYTH:

After you are fully vaccinated you can gather with unvaccinated people, without wearing a mask, socially distancing, or avoiding in crowds.

FACT:

You should still take steps to protect yourself and others in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least six feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Take these precautions whenever you are in public, gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household, visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19, or if you live with a person at increased risk.

MYTH:
After you are fully vaccinated you can travel anywhere.

FACT:
You should still delay domestic and international travel. If you do travel, you'll still need to follow CDC requirements and recommendations.

MYTH:
Once you are fully vaccinated, you are fully immune to COVID-19.

FACT:
You can still carry, transmit, and spread COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

MYTH:
After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you will test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test.

FACT:
Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response—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. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

MYTH:
COVID-19 vaccines will alter your DNA.

FACT:
COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

MYTH:
It's not safe to get vaccinated if you want to have a baby someday.

FACT:
There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

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Source: Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
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