




## Resource to address common misconceptions about the COVID-19 Vaccine



[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/Community\\_Sector\\_Support/HealthcareProviders/Vaccine\\_Hesitancy.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/Community_Sector_Support/HealthcareProviders/Vaccine_Hesitancy.pdf)



### VACCINE HESITANCY

#### Common Misconceptions

**"Vaccines Were Developed Too Quickly"**  
Harnessing technologic advances and building on earlier research led to early success

- Ten days after the first reported cases in China, the SARS-CoV-2 virus was [sequenced and made public](#)
- The importance of spike protein in vaccine development of vaccines for [SARS-CoV-1 in 2002](#) and [MERS-CoV in 2012](#) helped jumpstart the COVID-19 vaccine efforts in Jan 2020
- Delivery systems used for COVID-19 vaccines have been in development since the 1970s ([Adenovirus vector](#), [mRNA](#))

**"FDA Evaluation Was Rushed"**  
Efficiencies in meeting FDA requirements, scaling up production, and prioritized review saved time

- Manufacturing process developed in parallel to clinical trials ([Operation Warp Speed](#))
- Required FDA Review and CDC Advisory Committee meetings were prioritized scheduled expeditiously; eliminating the typical scheduling delays.

**"Trials Were Too Short to Detect Long Term Effects"**  
COVID-19 vaccine trials had similar size and duration of preceding vaccines with full approval


- High incidence allowed quick achievement of clinical endpoints ([adaptive trial design](#)), but monitoring for serious adverse events continued for 6 months after the final dose
- Previous vaccines with unanticipated effects were [detected within 8 weeks](#) of vaccination during the pre-approval trials—that's why FDA required a minimum of 8 weeks
- [No vaccine approved/authorized for use in the United States has been definitively associated with long-lasting, on-going effects.](#) Monitoring and research continue after authorization for as long as the vaccine is in use (e.g., [VAERS](#), [V-safe](#))
- [150 million+ COVID-19 vaccine first doses administered](#) in the US: CDC is already able to detect events occurring <1/million doses

**"COVID-19 Is Usually Mild in Healthy People"**  
Risks of relying on post-infection immunity

- Serious illness or death, even among [younger adults](#)
- [Spreading COVID-19](#) to family and community when pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic
- [Asymptomatic and mild illness provide weak and time limited immunity \(CDC recommends post-infection vaccination\)](#)
- Post-acute symptoms or "[long](#)" COVID-19 syndrome

**Benefits of immunity through vaccination**

- [Provides the same viral antigens](#) as infection but without symptoms of COVID-19
- Symptoms caused by vaccination may occur, but are [mild, short lived](#) (2-3 days)
- [Proven effectiveness](#) against severe disease and death
- Post-vaccination natural infection is rare but [milder and has not been transmitted](#)



**Make an Informed Choice**  
**Everyone has a choice to get vaccinated or not**

- [Use reliable sources](#) for an informed decision
- [HCWs are influential](#) in patients' decision making
- Communicate vaccine information to patients in an unbiased way ([COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits for Healthcare Teams](#))

**Additional Resources:** [AAP | Countering Vaccine Hesitancy](#); [AMA | Tips for speaking with colleagues about COVID-19 vaccination](#); [Language that works - de Beaumont Foundation](#)

For the latest updates on COVID-19, visit:  
[www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals)

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Rev. 07/06/21