

COVID-19 vaccines: Myths vs Facts

MYTH

FACT

The COVID-19 vaccines are not safe because they were developed too quickly and not tested enough.



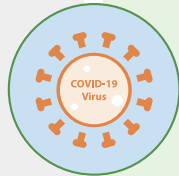
The vaccines were approved quickly because Health Canada made it a priority. The clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccine were just as strict as they are for any other vaccine. Government agencies continually monitor and review vaccine safety. Visit [Health Canada's website](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/vaccines-and-biologics/covid-19-vaccines.html) to learn more about how vaccines are approved.

The COVID-19 vaccines don't work against variants of concern.



The COVID-19 vaccines appear to provide protection against most variants of concern. While some fully vaccinated people may still become sick from the virus, the vaccines provide good protection against severe illness caused by the COVID-19 variants.

I don't need the vaccine because I already had COVID-19.



Even if you have had a COVID-19 infection, it is important that you get the vaccine. Re-infection with COVID-19 is possible.

Vaccination after a COVID-19 infection helps improve your immune response and may provide better and longer-lasting protection against current and future variants of the virus.

When you should get your vaccine after an infection depends on when you had COVID-19. For more information visit halton.ca/COVIDvaccines.

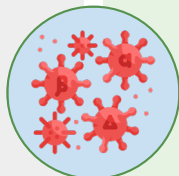
The COVID-19 vaccine has severe side effects.



Mild symptoms are common after you get the COVID-19 vaccine, such as pain at the needle site, muscle aches or headache. These are normal signs that your body is building protection. Severe side effects are very rare.

Visit [Health Canada's webpages](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/vaccines-and-biologics/covid-19-vaccines.html) to find more information on vaccine side effects.

New variants of COVID-19 are mild and symptoms resolve quickly.



Although many people experience mild symptoms of COVID-19, some people get severely sick and need hospitalization. Some people experience long term symptoms after a COVID-19 infection called "post COVID-19 condition", commonly known as "long COVID-19". The best way to prevent this condition is to prevent getting COVID-19, by staying up-to-date with your COVID-19 vaccinations and practicing public health measures.

I don't need a booster because I got two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Staying up to date with your booster dose(s) provides stronger protection against severe illness.

MYTH

FACT

Pregnant and breastfeeding people should not get the COVID-19 vaccine.



Pregnant people are at increased risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.

Health experts in Canada agree that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and protect pregnant and breastfeeding people from severe illness. The COVID-19 vaccine can be given at any time during pregnancy or when breastfeeding.

Talk to your health care provider if you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

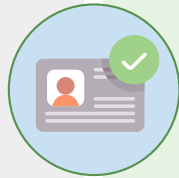
COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility or miscarriage.



COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly recommended for people who are planning a pregnancy or already pregnant. COVID-19 vaccines do not affect fertility or cause miscarriage.

Vaccination can help protect you and your baby if you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy. Talk to your health care provider about vaccines that can help protect you during pregnancy.

You can only get vaccinated if you have an Ontario Health Card (OHIP)



The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone in Canada. If you do not have an Ontario Health Card, you are still able to get the vaccine. You only need to provide a piece of government issued ID such as a driver's licence or passport.