

Myths surrounding vaccination

Is it true that the coronavirus vaccination does not provide protection against all variants of the coronavirus?

No, that isn't true. The risk of people who have been vaccinated becoming ill with or dying from COVID-19 is far lower than among people who have not received the vaccine. Vaccines train the immune system to recognise the surface of the different variants of coronavirus, and so successfully and quickly prevent viral infection.

Can mRNA vaccines alter my genetic make-up? Really?

No. The vaccines cannot alter your genetic make-up. mRNA vaccines cannot penetrate our genetic make-up and change our DNA. Extensive research has already been conducted into this type of vaccine. Unlike traditional vaccines, in this case part of the complex production of a vaccine – extracting antigens – is shifted from the laboratory to human cells. This type of vaccine is being used for the first time in the coronavirus pandemic.

Does the coronavirus vaccine leave you infertile?

No. The coronavirus vaccine has no impact on fertility. Women may find that their menstrual cycle continues for longer. This will soon settle down again, however. Women who wish to conceive are even recommended to have the coronavirus vaccine so that they are already protected against infection before they become pregnant.

Is the vaccine ineffective, given that even people who have had the vaccine can become infected? Really?

No. The coronavirus vaccine will provide you with protection. The coronavirus vaccination considerably reduces your risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. If, in very rare instances, an individual becomes infected with COVID-19 despite being vaccinated, the infection will be far milder. Vaccination prevents complications and deaths.

Is it true that the coronavirus vaccination doesn't help, and that people who are vaccinated still end up being admitted to hospital?

The vaccinations helps and protects. Out of 100,000 fully vaccinated individuals, only around nine will be admitted to hospital in relation to coronavirus. The facts speak for themselves: 7 out of 10 people in our hospitals have not been vaccinated. This figure is even higher in intensive care units. The coronavirus vaccine therefore protects against serious disease progression, and against dying from COVID-19.

Is a microchip inserted into people when they get the coronavirus vaccine?

No. That is a conspiracy theory.

Are the new vaccines unsafe because the approvals process was accelerated?

No, the vaccines are safe. COVID-19 vaccines were developed far more quickly than others because the virus is so dangerous. Everything we already know about the coronavirus variants and vaccines was fed into the research. To accelerate the development, companies and research institutions are making far more staff and financial resources available in a shorter time than usual. The COVID-19 vaccines have been just as rigorously and extensively tested as other vaccines.

Is it true that the long-term effects of the coronavirus vaccine cannot yet be assessed?

Side-effects of the vaccine generally become apparent after a few hours. Rare side-effects usually occur within a few weeks of being vaccinated. This is also the case with the coronavirus vaccine.

If you still have questions, you can find lots of answers at www.tirol.gv.at/tirolimpft as well as www.tirol.gv.at/coronafakten.