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UNDERSTANDING COVID-19 MYTHS

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY TO SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION

GUARDIANS OF CLEVELAND // BUSTING COVID-19 MYTHS
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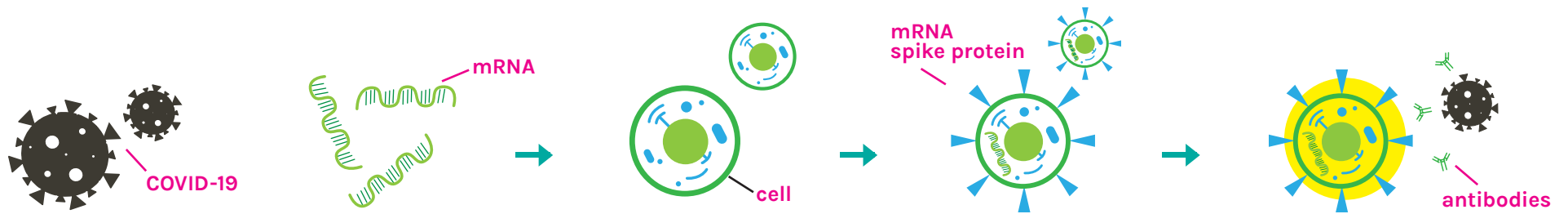
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Guardians of Cleveland: WHO ARE WE?

The Guardians of Cleveland are your neighbors. We're shopping at the same corner store, worshipping together at the same house of worship and getting our nails done at the same salon. We're not waiting for anyone to come in and "save" our neighborhoods; when it comes to public health and the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, we're here to give it to you straight - exactly what you need to know.

HOW Does the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Work?



COVID-19 and other coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called spike proteins.

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, tells your body how to make proteins.

The vaccine is made of mRNA that teaches your cells how to make copies of the spike protein without being exposed to the real spike proteins from COVID-19.

The Vaccine DOES NOT contain ANY virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It does not alter your DNA in any way.

If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off with antibodies, thanks to the mRNA.



COMMON MYTHS BUSTED.

mRNA, or messenger RNA, carries a “recipe” to the cells in your body. Receiving an mRNA vaccine will not affect your DNA in any way, shape, or form. There is no virus in the vaccine. Messenger RNA delivers the instructions to your body’s cells to teach them how to make proteins to build antibodies against the COVID-19 virus.



**STRAIGHT UP. AS KEVIN “CHILL” HEARD OF LEE/HARVARD SAYS:
“DON’T TUSKEGEE YOURSELF.”**

THE MYTH: This is exactly like Tuskegee.

THE TRUTH

During the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, Black men who had syphilis were denied treatment so that the effects of the disease could be studied by scientists. If those men had gotten the care they needed, they would have avoided the serious long term effects of syphilis, which can include death, and would not have passed the infection on to their wives and children.

By not vaccinating ourselves, it's like we're experimenting on ourselves.

The available COVID -19 vaccines have been tested, reviewed, and approved for use by countries around the world - including here in the U.S. These shots have been proven to be safe for use in anyone age 12 and up.



STRAIGHT UP. ANA DUMETT, LATINX COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, SAYS
“I HAD THE VACCINE MONTHS AGO AND GUESS WHAT,
I’M STILL HERE. YOUR TURN.”

THE MYTH: This is a way to deport me, I don't have an ID.

THE TRUTH

The Department of Homeland Security has said that it's important for everyone in the country to get vaccinated, even if you are undocumented. The Ohio Department of Health needs to see an ID to give you the vaccine, but it doesn't need to be from this country, and it can be expired. What matters is that they know your name and age, not your status.



STRAIGHT UP. MRS. CARRIE REEVES, A MEMBER OF THE USHER CORE AT EAST MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH SAYS “GET THAT SHOT SO WE CAN GATHER TOGETHER AGAIN – ESPECIALLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS IN WORSHIP.”

THE MYTH: This is the mark of the beast.

THE TRUTH

The Mark of the Beast is found in the Book of Revelations. It is described as a symbolic, non-visual mark given to those who are loyal to the beast. Those who get the mark also have to accept it; no one can accidentally accept the mark of the beast.

The Mark is not something you can accept without knowing – it is reserved for those loyal to the beast or worshipping the beast.

Unless the nurse giving you the vaccine has seven heads and ten horns, you're probably clear.



STRAIGHT UP. KIM FIELDS, A RESIDENT & COMMUNITY ADVOCATE IN BUCKEYE-SHAKER SAYS: “I WAS SCARED TOO. I CAN’T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, BUT YOU HAVE TO PROTECT YOURSELF.”

THE MYTH: This will make me infertile.

THE TRUTH

The vaccine will not interact with your reproductive organs. Some people think that your body will mix up the vaccine and the placenta and your immune system will attack your placenta - but that is not scientifically possible.

You're more likely to have complications with your pregnancy if you haven't been vaccinated and get a COVID-19 infection.



STRAIGHT UP. MIHN VANG, LONG TIME MIDTOWN BUSINESS WOMAN & ADVOCATE, SAYS “HAVING ACCESS TO THE VACCINE IS A PRIVILEGE. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?”

THE MYTH: COVID-19 isn't a big deal – it's just like the flu or a bad cold

THE TRUTH

The flu has killed about 230,000 people in the last five years. COVID-19 has killed more than 600,000 people in one year. Many of those 600,000 people would still be alive if they had not gotten COVID-19.

We've been getting the flu shot for 76 years. If this was just the flu, 600,000 people would not have died.



*Your grandma, auntie, mama, pastor
and everybody else you know
is waiting for you to get the vaccine.*

They're just waiting for you to go get vaccinated.

dedicated to

*Dedicated to the 2,234+ neighbors who have died
from COVID-19 in Cuyahoga County as of June 30, 2021.*