

# MYTH:

The COVID-19 vaccine can affect women's and men's fertility.

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# FACT:

The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility for women OR men. The truth is that the COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spike protein found on the coronavirus's surface. This "teaches" the body's immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it.



Confusion arose when a false report surfaced on social media, saying that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another spike protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. The false report said that getting the COVID-19 vaccine would cause a woman's body to fight this different spike protein and affect her fertility.

The two spike proteins are completely different and distinct, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the fertility of women who are seeking to become pregnant, including through in vitro fertilization methods. During the Pfizer vaccine tests, 23 women volunteers involved in the study became pregnant, and the only one who suffered a pregnancy loss had not received the actual vaccine, but a placebo.

The same is true for men. There is absolutely no evidence that any of the vaccines can affect the fertility of men.

**Getting COVID-19, on the other hand, can have potentially serious impacts on pregnancy and a person's health.**

*Information courtesy of hopkinsmedicine.org  
as of February 11, 2021.*



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Community Health Clinic