



# Questions and answers on COVID-19 Vaccines

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Please see below some common questions and simple answers regarding COVID-19 vaccines.

## **How can we be sure the COVID-19 vaccines are safe when they were rushed through so quickly?**

It can seem like the vaccine development was fast compared to other medications, but no steps were skipped during their trials. Globally, various governments and manufacturers invested enormous amounts of funding and removed red tape to create these life-saving vaccines as fast as possible in our time of need. Furthermore, research to understand the virus has been ongoing since the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

## **Does vaccines alter DNA?**

No, the mRNA (the “m” stands for messenger) vaccine is not capable of changing DNA. Instead, it tells your cells to produce the specific antigens your body needs to fight COVID-19. Hence, vaccines cannot and do not change your DNA.

## **How effective can the vaccines be if we need a booster?**

Initially, being fully vaccinated provided enough protection, but over time variants of COVID-19 began to appear and immunity began to decrease, particularly among the immunocompromised and the elderly. Boosters help to “top up” our protection against catching and spreading COVID-19. If you look at the number of deaths and hospitalizations from COVID-19, you will find that fully vaccinated people with boosters are far less likely to become severely ill.

## **Why are more vaccinated people catching COVID than the unvaccinated?**

Being vaccinated doesn't make you immune to COVID-19, but it does greatly reduce your chances of becoming very ill. It may sometimes seem as if more vaccinated people catch COVID-19 than the unvaccinated, but that is simply because there are considerably more fully vaccinated people in Saskatchewan – approximately 908,000 fully vaccinated to 185,000 eligible and unvaccinated as of March 4. The reality is that on a per capita basis far more unvaccinated people are catching COVID-19 and becoming very ill.

## **Is COVID-19 dangerous?**

Yes, COVID-19 can be very dangerous. Available data regarding the COVID-19 pandemic shows that there have been over 1,100 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, over 36,000 deaths in Canada, and almost 6 million deaths globally, as well as millions more who have become extremely ill.



### **References**

1.Saskatchewan Health Authority. SHA Daily Rounds (March 16, 2022). Retrieved from <https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/sites/default/files/2022-03/2022-03-16-SHA-Rounds.pdf>