COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS debunked

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was rapidly developed and tested. FACT: Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the worldwide impact of the pandemic. The emergency situation warranted an emergency response, but that DOES NOT mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or performed inadequate testing.

MYTH: I already had COVID-19 and recovered, so I don't need to get a COVID-19 vaccine. FACT: There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. You should get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you've had COVID-19 previously.

MYTH: There are severe side effects from COVID-19 vaccines.

FACT: On rare occasions, some people have developed allergic reactions shortly after they have been vaccinated. Otherwise, there are short-term mild or moderate vaccine reactions. Some people may develop headache, chills, fatigue, muscle pain, or fever lasting for a day or two. These side effects are indicators that your immune system is responding to the vaccine and are common when receiving vaccines.

MYTH: I won't need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccine. FACT: It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. And while the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is unknown at this time if you can still carry and transmit the virus to others. Until more is understood about transmission from the vaccinated population, continuing with precautions such as mask-wearing and physical distancing will be important.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccines were developed using fetal tissue. FACT: Current mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were not created with and do not require the use of fetal cell cultures in the production process.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine was developed as a way to control the general population through microchip tracking.

FACT: There is no vaccine "microchip" and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database.

Source: Jefferson Health - Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia