

# COVID SHOT or NOT



## Introduction

After a year of COVID-19, causing 30 million positive cases, 500,000+ deaths, social restrictions, devastating economic impact, school & church closures, etc.. It is easy to feel a sense of urgency to take one of the COVID-19 vaccines. Our best shot to get back to “normal” seems to lie in this antidote. This WRITE UP is an attempt to simply provide education on a critical consequential choice of our lifetime.

As with any drug or vaccine, separating fact from fiction is critical and can be increasingly hard to do with the amount of noise surrounding the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. Rumors circulating on the internet and on social media platforms include, for example, ones claiming that the new vaccines can affect fertility, despite there being no evidence. More importantly, there is no [biological possibility](#) that COVID-19 vaccines could affect fertility.

Nor can the vaccines actually give you COVID-19, and there is no biologically plausible mechanism through which they could do so. While there have been anecdotal reports of people appearing to get COVID-19 after the first dose of the vaccine or dying, it is most likely that these patients already had the virus incubating before their shot. Or they were part of the small percentage of people in whom the vaccine failed to trigger an immune response, and then subsequently became infected.

Ultimately safety is paramount throughout the entire vaccine development and deployment. This WRITE UP leaves the decision in your hands. The bible says the following ~ ***According to your faith be it unto you*** (Matthew 9:29). Faith is not the absence of information; it is hearing God despite the information. Please process the content of material through that lens.

According to the CDC, any possible risks from the COVID-19 vaccines, are considerably lower than those associated with COVID-19 infection, and vastly outweighed by the benefits of protecting people and preventing the virus from spreading. (1)

## What is a vaccine?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them. It uses your body's natural defenses to build resistance to specific infections and makes your immune system stronger. Vaccines train your immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it's exposed to a disease. However, because vaccines contain only killed or weakened forms of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause the disease or put you at risk of its complications.

Most vaccines are given by an injection, but some are given orally (by mouth) or sprayed into the nose. (2)

## What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

A **COVID-19 vaccine** is a **vaccine** intended to provide acquired immunity against severe acute respiratory syndrome **coronavirus** 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus causing **coronavirus** disease 2019 (**COVID-19**).

## Is the COVID-19 vaccine effective?

The FDA's analysis found that, in the U.S., the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was 72% effective at preventing all COVID-19 and 86% effective at preventing severe cases of the disease. While there is still a chance a vaccinated person could get sick, this suggests they would be much less likely to need hospitalization or to die from COVID-19.

Researchers found the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be slightly less effective at preventing all illness there – 64% overall – but was still 82% effective at preventing severe disease. The FDA report also indicates that the vaccine protects against other variants from Britain and Brazil too. (3)

## How can I trust a vaccine that has been produced so fast?

A candidate vaccine goes through [several stages](#) before it can be given to people – right from the exploratory science, to the pre-clinical testing (often on animals), then clinical development (which includes three phases of human trials), and finally regulatory review and approval, manufacturing and quality control.

In pre-clinical studies, a vaccine is tested to see whether it is toxic and how it reacts with the body – this is to identify a safe dose before testing the vaccine candidate in people.

Human trials are designed to spot side effects – these are not the same as temporary short-term reactions such as a headache, sore arms, fatigue, chills and fever, which are not uncommon in other vaccines or injections, and are usually not harmful in the long term. Genuine side effects mean anything that is long-lasting and potentially dangerous.

During clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was given to half of a total of 43,500 people, and the Moderna vaccine to around 15,000 of 30,000 people in the trial. Throughout the phase 1, 2 and 3 trials assessing safety, no major side-effects have been reported so far. (4)

## **Are there any side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Over 109 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020, through March 15, 2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA).

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. Some people have no side effects. Many people have reported mild side effects after COVID-19 vaccination, like

- pain or swelling at the injection site,
- a headache, chills,
- or fever.

These reactions are common. A small number of people have had a severe allergic reaction (called “anaphylaxis”) after vaccination, but this is extremely **rare**. If this occurs, vaccination providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction. (5)

## What are the concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine?

While the COVID-19 vaccines are highly recommended by most medical doctors and scientists, there is a growing concern amongst some.

**First**, the COVID-19 vaccine is NOT approved by the FDA. It has only been granted emergency authorization usage (EAU).

**“After a thorough analysis of the data, the FDA’s scientists and physicians have determined that the vaccines meets the FDA’s expectations for safety and effectiveness appropriate for the authorization of a vaccine for emergency use,” said Peter Marks, M.D., Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (6)**

The issuance of an EUA is different than an FDA approval (licensure) of a vaccine, in that a vaccine available under an EUA is not approved. In determining whether to issue an EUA for a product, the FDA evaluates the available evidence to determine whether the product may be effective and also assesses any known or potential risks and any known or potential benefits.

If the product meets the effectiveness standard and the benefit-risk assessment is favorable, the process for approval can take several months or years after a rigorous review of all available data on the product.

**Secondly**, there have been some antidotal evidence of severe reactions to the COVID-19 vaccines, including “alleged” death. This part of the summary would have included those facts but articles that lamented those concerns have mysteriously been removed. Here is what the links represent now.

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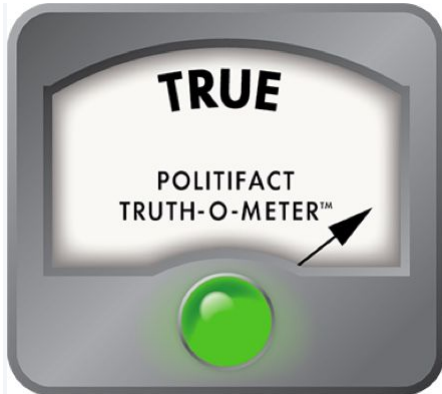
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<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/post-vaccination-deaths-dont-covid-19-vaccine-> (7)

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<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2021/mar/16/aubrey-huff/claim-blaming-/> (8)

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[https://www.kctv5.com/good\\_question/good-question-has-anybody-died-after-rec/](https://www.kctv5.com/good_question/good-question-has-anybody-died-after-rec/) (9).

These were articles that represented people with good health who dies within two weeks post the covid vaccine shots.

Amidst the strange deletion of any objective content OR the intentional taking down of videos from credentialed doctors who speak caution to the vaccine OR the cancelation of all things anti vaccine, I was able to maintain one article.

According to the New York Times, Health authorities are investigating the case of a Florida doctor who died from an unusually severe blood disorder 16 days after receiving the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine.

Dr. Gregory Michael, a 56-year-old obstetrician and gynecologist in Miami Beach, received the vaccine at Mount Sinai Medical Center on Dec. 18 and died 16 days later from a brain hemorrhage, his wife, Heidi Neckelmann, wrote in a Facebook post.

Dr. Michael had “absolutely no medical issues” and no underlying conditions, Ms. Neckelmann, who declined to be interviewed by phone as she made funeral preparations, said in a text message to The New York Times. “Never had any reaction to any medication nor vaccines.” Her husband, she added, was a healthy, active person who did not smoke or take any medication.

“He was an avid deep sea fisherman and mostly a family man,” she said. “He never got Covid because he used an N95 mask from the beginning of the pandemic. He was adamant in protecting his family and patients.”

There was also reported cases such as 29 cases of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction. None were reported as fatal. Many people have had other side effects like sore arms, fatigue, headache or fever, which are usually transient. (10)

**Finally**, the remaining concern that may linger is knowing the COVID-19 vaccine represents a first. According to the CDC, messenger RNA vaccines—also called mRNA vaccines—are some of the first COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States. mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies. (11)

Two of the new vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna use mRNA technology. The advantages of mRNA vaccines are numerous – they are fast to develop, cheaper and easier to manufacture than more traditional vaccines. The RNA vaccines have not been used on the public before. Hence the emergency authorization usage (EUA) versus FDA approved. The data needs to continue to be studied and tested.

Despite the novelty of mRNA, it does not tamper with our own genetic code because it does not enter the nucleus at the heart of our cells, and so does not come into contact with our DNA. Also, RNA disintegrates within about 72 hours. (12)

## **Has anybody died from taking the COVID-19 vaccine?**

According to Lynn Sutfin, a spokesperson for the state health department, 27 deaths have been reported among Michiganders and 1,170 reports of post-vaccine deaths nationally from Dec. 14-Feb. 7.

Dr. David Gorski, a professor of surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine who has written extensively on vaccine safety as managing editor of Science-Based Medicine, explained why some deaths following COVID-19 shots are to be expected. "When you roll out a mass vaccination program on this scale, which is pretty much unprecedented now, by the law of large numbers there are going to be quite a few reports of people who die or have something bad happen to them after getting vaccinated just by random chance alone," Gorski said. (13)

The Detroit Free Press reported Daniel Thayne Simpson, a retired accountant from Chesterfield Township who served in the Navy during the Korean War, got his first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Feb. 3. The next day, Simpson, 90, was dead. (14)

## **What is academia saying about the COVID-19 vaccine?**

### **MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE**

Academic medical institutions and public health schools, including minority-serving institutions like Meharry Medical College, a historically Black medical school in Nashville, Tenn., are taking leading roles in confronting vaccine



hesitancy in minority communities. African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are far more likely to contract COVID-19 and to die if they do compared to their white counterparts. Black Americans are 1.4 times more likely than white Americans to contract COVID, 3.7 times more likely to be hospitalized and 2.8 times more likely to die from it. Latinos are 1.7 times more likely to contract COVID, 4.1 times more likely to be hospitalized and 2.8 times more likely to die.

### **CHARLES R DREW UNIVERSITY**

David M. Carlisle, the president of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, a historically Black graduate institution in Los Angeles, said he was struck by how often laypeople cite the unethical Tuskegee syphilis experiments performed on Black men between 1932 and 1972 as cause for concern. "It's only natural that communities of color that have been underserved by the health-care system would be suspicious about something new," Carlisle said. In December, Carlisle joined with the presidents of the nation's other three historically Black medical schools, along with the presidents of the National Black Nurses Association and the National Medical Association and others, affirming participation in vaccination programs to the fullest extent possible."

### **HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

"This is really about saving our lives," said Anita Jenkins, CEO of Howard University Hospital, in Washington, D.C. "Too many of us have died." Howard created a public service announcement about the vaccines aimed at Black Americans. Across the country, academic medical professors and leaders and public health scholars are engaged in advocacy, outreach and research on the issue of vaccine hesitancy.

### **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston held an event last weekend at one of its clinics in a largely minority community, livestreamed on Facebook, where a number of elected officials received vaccines.

"We have to build on the relationships we have with many respected leaders in the community and use them as partners to help educate the community," said LaTanya Love, interim dean of education of McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and executive vice president of diversity for UTHealth. "We did an event with former heavyweight boxer champion George Foreman; he received his vaccine at one of our clinics. It was a way to use a well-respected celebrity figure in the community to reassure people who are hesitant."

## **JOHN HOPKINS**

Some people are asking if the COVID-19 vaccines are safe. Lisa Maragakis, M.D., M.P.H., senior director of infection prevention, and Gabor Kelen, M.D., director of the Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, answers Yes, research to date indicates the vaccines for COVID-19 have a very good safety profile.

## **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

According to Dr. Robert H. Shmerling, Harvard Health Publishing HARVARD, states: It's natural to wonder if brand new vaccines against a novel coronavirus, developed at unprecedented speed, are effective and safe to take. However, it is important to note ~ "Overall effectiveness has been reported in the range of 70% to 95%. That's well above the average effectiveness of the flu vaccine.. (15)

## **What does the bible say about the COVID-19 vaccine?**

As believers in Christ, we know the importance of seeking God's direction. Proverbs 3:5 teaches ~ ***5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.***

What is God's direction for us in this area? Is the COVID-19 vaccine a blessing or a curse? Will the vaccine heal us or hurt us? Is the vaccine the mark of the beast? Should a believer take the COVID-19 vaccine?

To answer this question, I want us to consider one fundamental truth about God ~ He can do anything! We cannot limit the power of God to a vaccine. Let's examine three areas: ***God's Ability; God's Application; God's Anointing.***

## **GOD'S ABILITY**

Remember Genesis 18:11-14 ~ <sup>11</sup> **Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup> Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? <sup>13</sup> And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? <sup>14</sup> Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.**

During a time of pandemic, particularity where 500,000+ people have died, we can easily forget that God can do anything. God was attempting to do something in their life that was unproven. He was attempting to do something that was a violation of the natural order of things.

As you consider the COVID-19 vaccine, to some it may be unproven, to others it attempts to go against the natural order of things. Remember the song of our ancestors ~ "God specializes in things that seem impossible.." God's ability can take a COVID-19 vaccine that was produced in a short time and technology that has never been used before and provide your healing.

God's ability can also provide healing and protection from COVID outside of a vaccine. God's ability can happen outside of science and make us laugh OR God's ability can work within science and make him laugh.

## **GOD'S APPLICATION**

Every miracle performed by the Jesus Christ was accomplished through an unproven, unapproved, arbitrary process.

Consider Matthew 12:10-14 ~ <sup>10</sup> **And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup> And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. <sup>13</sup> Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. <sup>14</sup> Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.**

Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the sabbath day. At the time of this healing, it was not approved and it was not authorized. Jesus does not subscribe to traditional methods for healing. I suspect the good news here is God will break through rules to get you to your breakthrough.

It is interesting to note in verse 14, that no one should take on the position of the Pharisees post the miracle. There should be no judgement to those who trust God and opt not to take the COVID-19 vaccine and there should be no judgement to those who opt in and take the vaccine. Lord, anyway you bless us, we shall be satisfied.

None of the miracle of Jesus Christ would meet FDA approval. Whether water turned into wine OR raising a man from the grave OR whether opening up the eyes of a blind man via spittle or feeding 5000 with two fish and five loaves of bread with no food handler card...none of the miracle of Jesus Christ would meet FDA approval.

Remember Matthew 8:27 ~ ***27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!***

## **GOD'S ANOINTING**

Psalms 20:7 ~ ***7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*** As a believer in Christ, our objective is to trust in God and nothing else. ***God can take the foolish things of the world to confound the wise*** (1 Corinthians 1:27). Let's not make the mistake of trusting the process instead of trusting God.

We see this take place with Naaman. Remember 2 Kings 5:9-14 ~ ***9 So Naaman arrived with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's home. 10 Elisha sent a messenger out to tell him to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed of every trace of his leprosy! 11 But Naaman was angry and stalked away. "Look," he said, "I thought at least he would come out and talk to me! I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call upon the name of the Lord his God and heal me! 12 Aren't the Abana River and Pharpar River of Damascus better than all the rivers of Israel put together? If it's rivers I need, I'll wash at home and get rid of my leprosy." So he went away in a rage. 13 But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply to go and wash and be cured!" 14 So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself***

***seven times, as the prophet had told him to. And his flesh became as healthy as a little child's, and he was healed!***

God was going to heal Naaman from leprosy by having him dip in the muddy Jordan river seven times. Naaman was so disturbed by the process he almost missed his miracle. The bible says he was angry. He was irked that God did not heal him the traditional way (through laying on or waving of hands).

The lesson for our hearing is in verse 13. The servant says ~ if the prophet had told you to do something great, you would have done it. As you consider this critical choice....be careful not to allow the enemy of great to prevent you from receiving that which is good.

## **CONCLUSION**

David asked God, shall I pursue? That is the question before us ~ Covid Shot or Not? You need time to make a critical choice. I am convinced you cannot make a GOOD decision with BAD information. Selective deletions, silencing opposing views, ignoring rival data is hardly the hallmark of good information.

The bible says in Philippians 4:6-7 ~ ***6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.***

Pray about your choice. Make the best decision for you and your family. Use your faith to stand in the power of God. Read, research and receive.

## FOOTNOTES

1. [https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD_BwE)
2. [https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/vaccines-and-immunization-what-is-vaccination?adgroupsurvey={adgroupsurvey}&gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7j-WsD4Pi\\_EdmxtJjkyZDQaWABRLhyQ8GW\\_Pni07ngwQFVmljru4axoCc\\_uQQA vD\\_BwE](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/vaccines-and-immunization-what-is-vaccination?adgroupsurvey={adgroupsurvey}&gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7j-WsD4Pi_EdmxtJjkyZDQaWABRLhyQ8GW_Pni07ngwQFVmljru4axoCc_uQQA vD_BwE)
3. <https://theconversation.com/how-does-the-johnson-and-johnson-vaccine-compare-to-other-coronavirus-vaccines-4-questions-answered-155944>
4. [https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD_BwE)
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>
6. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-emergency-use-authorization-third-covid-19-vaccine>
7. <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/post-vaccination-deaths-dont-covid-19-vaccine->
8. <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2021/mar/16/aubrey-huff/claim-blaming-/>
9. [https://www.kctv5.com/good\\_question/good-question-has-anybody-died-after-rec/](https://www.kctv5.com/good_question/good-question-has-anybody-died-after-rec/)
10. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/12/health/covid-vaccine-death.html>

11. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>
12. [https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-safe-are-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7smYSvWCrotZdRul-odhLU1pkc2vQXwGoivfZ0CmhuqsMYJYnHYASxoC45gQAvD_BwE)
13. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2021/02/18/macomb-covid-vaccine-death-daniel-thayne-simpson/4380833001/>
14. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2021/02/18/macomb-covid-vaccine-death-daniel-thayne-simpson/4380833001/>
15. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/02/02/academic-medical-institutions-address-issues-vaccine-hesitancy-through-research-and>
16. All scriptures references are <https://www.biblegateway.com/>