



FAKE NEWS

Fact-checking:

Fake news about the coronavirus

Medical scientists explain

There are several growing and wide-spreading fake news about the COVID-19 vaccination that are nothing more than false - fake. Still, they are fast growing and irritating people in reaching decisions concerning the vaccination. As part of the campaign „Fact-checking: Fake news about the coronavirus“, medical scientists from Upper Austrian health institutes picked up the most common fake news and answered them based on scientific facts. This information is dedicated to especially young people who spend a lot of time on social media sites in order to have a proper basis when deconstructing fake news.

First of all:

„The COVID-19 vaccination the BEST medical resource and weapon against the pandemic. Everyone who is getting vaccinated, is contributing to his/her own health, the health of the community and to stemming the COVID-19 pandemic.“

Fake: „I'm young, so I don't need any protection from COVID-19.“

Correct: Vaccination is also important for children and young people over the age of 5, because ...

... it does protect the vaccinated persons themselves. Of course, as a young person you are less likely to get severely ill from COVID-19, but it cannot be ruled out. The vaccination protects you from serious illness. It also protects you from secondary infections, such as Long Covid, which you could develop after an infection. Also, it reduces the probability of infecting others, in case your infection stays unnoticed and asymptomatic. In addition, the overcoming of the pandemic should be a motive. Only if enough people are vaccinated, we will be able to handle the pandemic.

Fake: „mRNA vaccines could make me infertile.“

Correct: The vaccines do not affect fertility in men nor women ...

... This is a rumor based on the assumption that the spike protein of SARS-COV-2 is similar to Syncytin-1, a protein which is important for women during the formation of the placenta, and that the vaccine would cause an immune reaction against the placenta. This is not true. Many renowned scientists have stressed that there is no basis for this rumor. The spike protein and the placenta protein are so different that a cross-reaction is basically impossible. The proteins have only four (!) amino acids in common, and for such a reaction to take place, 50 to 80 amino acids would be necessary. Therefore, the vaccination will not prevent you from having children!

Fake: „The vaccines alter my DNA.“

Correct: The vaccines do not affect your DNA, because ...

... the mRNA vaccines are called „genome based“ vaccines but have actually nothing to do with the genomes in our bodies. Quite the contrary, they do not even come into contact with them. Moreover, the vaccines break down very quickly in our bodies. Consequently, COVID-19 vaccines would not be expected to cause long-term side effects. (Source: Prim. Priv.-Doz. Dr. Bernd Lamprecht)

Fake: „The vaccine isn't suitable for pregnant women.“

Correct: The vaccination is especially important for pregnant women, because ...

... the risk of serious illness due to SARS-Cov-2-infections is about three times higher during pregnancy if you are unvaccinated. Complications during pregnancy, such as pre-eclampsia, are also more frequent. Additionally, if you contract SARS-Cov2 during pregnancy there is a higher risk of a premature birth, with all the associated risks for the newborn. You can be vaccinated even if you are already pregnant. Ideally, you should be vaccinated before getting pregnant, preferably fully vaccinated four weeks before pregnancy begins. Then both you and your baby are well protected from the very beginning of pregnancy.

Fake: „I have had the infection and recovered, so I don't need to be vaccinated.“

Correct: Even if you have recovered, you should at least have the first dose of the vaccination because ...

... after the first dose of a normal vaccination series (two doses of vaccine), antibodies are formed in the body which are strengthened by the second vaccination for longer protection. If you have recovered from an infection 6 months before the vaccination, you will already have antibodies in your system. In this case, the first jab of the full series counts as the second one and you only need one (1) instead of two (2) vaccinations. You can still have also the second jab, if necessary for administrative reasons when for example crossing a border. If you have recovered and had the first jab, you should take the second jab 4 months after. If you had two jabs after recovering, you should get the third one 6 months after the second. If you recovered earlier than 6 months before the first jab or if you don't have any PCR-proofed evidence about your infection, then you should follow the regular vaccination-scheme (2+1).

Fake: „As soon as I get 2 jabs, I am fully immunized and don't need any further vaccination.“

Correct: A booster jab is currently recommended, because ...

... after a few months the protection of the vaccine decreases. Therefore, you should get a booster vaccine in order to maintain protection and immunity. Based on the current state of scientific knowledge, boosting is recommended for all people every 4-6 months excluding children aged 5-11 years.

Fake: „I have been vaccinated so I can't get infected.“

Correct: Even vaccinated you can get infected, but ...

... you have a lower risk of getting infected compared to persons without any immunization. Even if you get infected, you are less likely to get severely ill from COVID-19.

Fake: „If I can be positive even if I have been vaccinated, then there is no point in getting vaccinated.“

Correct: Getting vaccinated is important because ...

... the risk of an infection is minimized by the vaccination and the danger of serious illness is reduced. The vaccination protects you and those around you. The more people get vaccinated, the higher is the possibility of keeping hospitals from reaching their limits which means that the personal freedom of everyone stays maintained. Only when a large number of people have been fully vaccinated, the pandemic can be well managed.

The advantages of the vaccination outweigh the risk and it is a small step for each of us leading to a normal life without restrictions.

Fake: „I only need one shot of the vaccination to be fully protected.“

Correct: You should have both doses of the vaccine because ...

... full protection is important and can only be ensured through full vaccination. Of course, your body develops antibodies after the first shot, but many studies have shown that a second shot strengthens these antibodies considerably. This is why it is necessary to go to both of your appointments in order to get your full vaccination. A third vaccination 4-6 months after the second vaccination ensures long-term protection.

Fake: „The covid vaccines were approved so quickly that they can't have been tested properly.“

Correct: The COVID-19 vaccines are safe because ...

... vaccines are only allowed on the market after they have passed strict tests. Like any other vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccines have been intensively tested. Each of the different vaccines must pass strictly controlled processes. There are clear legal and scientific requirements they must fulfil before they can be used on healthy people. Only if the benefits outweigh any possible risk, a vaccine is approved.

Even when a vaccine has been approved, a continually assessment is provided focusing on possible side effects and effectiveness, and whether the benefits still outweigh any risk.

For further reliable information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit:

www.sozialministerium.at/Corona-Schutzimpfung/Corona-Schutzimpfung---Haeufig-gestellte-Fragen.html

www.land-oeberoesterreich.gv.at/fake-news



www.ooe-impft.at