

Bull City Strong  
Community Health Promoters Training  
COVID-19 Misinformation 101 – Part 2!  
At-A-Glance

## RECAP

### Clarity

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact historically marginalized communities
- In December 2020, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved emergency use of the COVID-19
  - We should not continue to see COVID-19 waves repeatedly when there are clear preventive measures to lower risk of severe illness and death
    - 2 Ws (wash, wait, wear)
    - Vaccines
    - Boosters
- Prevention is driven by individual behavior. It is KEY that we help our communities make decisions based on facts—not misinformation!

### Misinformation (Defined)

- false or *inaccurate* information, especially that which is deliberately intended to *deceive*.
- incorrect or *misleading* information
- *false* information, regardless of whether or not it's intended to mislead or deceive people

### Not A Host™

- Equity-focused effort to address COVID-19 misinformation and advance health literacy
- “Host” has two meanings
  - Social: a person who receives or entertains other people as guests.
  - Biological: an animal or plant on or in which a germ (virus) lives.
- Viruses cannot survive without a host.
- NAH offers unique ways to help communities understand risk and informed-decision making.

### Risk and Informed Decision-Making

- COVID-19 risk is like “I-95” → runs both ways!
  - Risk of catching COVID ↔ Risk of spreading COVID  
Risk of severe illness or death

### #1 “I’m not about to be a lab rat.”

- Medications approved by the FDA go through a very detailed process to make sure they are safe and effective.
  - This process includes studies done in the lab (research and development phase), animals (preclinical phase) and in humans (clinical development phase).
    - *Clinical Development* stage and typically cover three (3) phases under the oversight of FDA.
  - Clinical trials are conducted according to plans that reflect FDA’s considerable expertise in clinical trial design – these plans are called “protocols.”
  - The phases of the studies may take place one after another, but it is also not uncommon for the phases of development to overlap.
    - **Phase 1**- Emphasis during this phase is on safety and generally includes 20–100 volunteers who haven’t been exposed to the disease being studied and who are generally otherwise healthy.

- **Phase 2-** Include more people, where **various dosages** are tested on 100's of people with typically varying health statuses and from different demographic groups (age, race, gender)
  - **Phase 3-** The vaccine is generally administered to thousands of people and the study generates critical information on **effectiveness** and additional important **safety** data. Effects.
- **The COVID-19** vaccine received emergency use authorization from the FDA after it was shown to be safe and effective.

## #2 “Vaccines don’t work.”

- Vaccines have reduced the burden of disease in our country and completely eliminated some diseases that have caused major epidemics in the last century.

## #3 “I already had the virus. I’m good!”

- Reinfections and long-COVID are potential risks for those who have already tested positive for COVID-19
  - Reinfection: means a person was infected with COVID-19, recovered, and then later became infected again.
    - After recovering from COVID-19, most individuals will have some protection from repeat infections, but scientists are still learning more about this.
  - Long COVID: means a person who was infected with COVID-19 can experience long-term effects from their infection
    - Also known as post-COVID conditions (PCC) or long-haul COVID

## #4 “Is the booster the same at the initial vaccine?”

- Boosters and additional doses are also used for different medical reasons and given at different times.
- There's no difference in the formula of the vaccine itself.
  - **Booster dose (as of August 2022)**
    - Moderna = same dose
    - Moderna = lower dose
    - J&J = cannot be used as a 2<sup>nd</sup> booster dose

## #5 “I heard [insert number of people] died from the vaccine.”

- It’s important to know the risks associated with vaccines—and any (any every) life choice!
  - It also important to know FACTS. Vaccine side effects, including death, can be found in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): <https://vaers.hhs.gov/uploadFile/index.jsp>
  - ...and cause + effect are important (researchers call this “causation”)
    - In other words, did the vaccine cause the side effect or did something else cause the side effect?