

# Hoosier Reason? for Vaccine Hesitancy

## Addressing the Myths of Insufficient Evidence

For healthcare workers, there isn't a magic pill that cures all ailments immediately when swallowed. Medical treatment takes time. And science. And often trial and error before getting it right.

So the thought of a vaccination as a defense against COVID-19 raised several eyebrows and doubts among many. Especially healthcare workers.

Those who dedicated themselves to serving patients during a pandemic soon found themselves questioning the discovered treatment. Their medical minds immediately kicked-in with questions along with personal fears, beliefs and doubts.

Let's address some of those in regards to vaccination efficacy.

### **Vaccines were developed too quickly to be trusted**

Actually, the research used to develop the vaccines have been used for many years, bringing scientist one step closer to solutions as viruses develop and mutate. The COVID-19 vaccine is the result of research for previous viruses such as the 2002-2004 outbreak of SARS, along with the flu, Zika, rabies and cancer.

While it appears the vaccine has been rushed into use with very little testing, that is not the case. Years of research and development have gone into the creation of the vaccine in preparation of a potential viral outbreak. As new virus arise, so do new vaccines and potential vaccines shelved until they are needed.

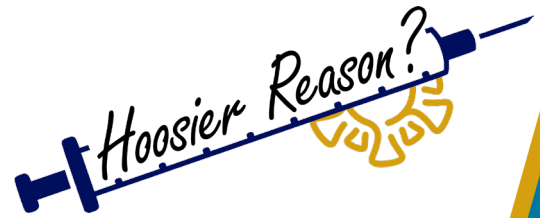
### **The vaccines will alter your DNA**

You won't be turning into a one-eye green monster anytime soon, despite what your patients or loved ones think when you're having a bad day. Instead of grabbing a Snickers, roll up that sleeve and get vaccinated.

It's understandable that putting something in your body can cause anxiety, fear and uncertainty. But here's the reality of the vaccines — they don't change your DNA.



The vaccines developed to treat COVID-19 are known as mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid). The vaccines do not interact or alter your DNA. Instead, the vaccine works like other treatments — creating cell protection against a virus to produce potential immunity. They are safe, keeping you, your patients and loved ones safe from serious illness.



## Vaccination doesn't stop you from getting COVID-19

That's right. You can still get sick. There's never a guarantee that you won't, just that the severity of the illness is less. According to recent reporting, a vaccinated person's chance of getting COVID-19 is about one in 11,000. And the severity of the virus is less than that of getting the common cold.

Vaccination isn't the magic pill, but it's close. Each year patients and healthcare workers are encouraged to get annual vaccinations in preparation for the flu season and pneumococcal infections. The COVID-19 vaccine is no different.

As a virus mutates, the previous vaccine loses its effectiveness. That doesn't mean the vaccine didn't work. Actually it means that it did exactly what it is designed to do — fight against a virus. When viruses face vaccines, it hits a wall of immunity causing it to no longer be a threat to those vaccinated.

Instead, a virus mutates to survive. It's smart. But you are smarter. Your medical training has taught you that vaccination is key to stopping spread. Getting vaccinated protects you, your loved ones and your patients.

## Hoosier Reason for Getting Vaccinated?

We encourage you to become a Vaccination Champion. Your decision to become vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus means you've gone the extra mile to ensure the safety of yourself and those you love and care for.

If you decided to become vaccinated, we encourage you to inspire other healthcare workers to do the same by sharing a brief testimonial video on the campaign website.

## About the Campaign

We celebrate and recognize the brave, selfless staff who have dedicated their time during the pandemic to the care and well-being of residents in long-term care facilities. They chose to get vaccinated and share the reason why they made that decision.

"Hoosier Reason?" is led by Qsource, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN/QIO) for Indiana under a contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

This campaign focuses on Indiana's long-term care facilities and community collaboratives working to improve the care provided to residents and patients throughout the state. "Hoosier Reason?" emphasizes the need for widespread COVID-19 vaccination of healthcare workers.

Learn more at [www.hoosier-reason.com](http://www.hoosier-reason.com)



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